

You Want Good Cattle
You Want Good Horses
You Want Good Sheep
You Want Good Swine
You Want Good Poultry

in short . . .

You Want
The Best Stock

Then Use

CARNEFAC STOCK FOOD

and have the very best.

It is a question of plain, simple, cold, hard, business for you to use CARNEFAC. In fattening stock it will add dollars to your profits. That fact has been proven times without number. Here is what the first prize winner at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition of 1903 says:

Arden, Man., Aug. 26th, 1903.
The Carnefac Stock Food Co.,

Dear Sirs—I fed the Poll Angus Grade Calf that won first prize at the Winnipeg Exhibition held last July, on your Stock Food. I do not think I could have made such gain without its use. At the age of from five to six months old he made a daily gain of five pounds.

Yours truly,
W. J. HISCOCK.

The calf was born after January 1st, and on July 17th weighed 773 pounds.

CARNEFAC
Poultry Food

does for Poultry what Stock Food
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FOOD COMPANY

Winnipeg. Toronto.

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Dr. McLaughlin's Electric
Belt Will do This for You.



Indigestion, General Debility and Poor
Circulation, etc.

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...IT has been demonstrated that Electricity is the most natural of all remedies for the cure of the ailments which afflict the human body. Every physician of modern ideas is an advocate of electrical treatment, and concedes that it stands far above all medical agents, especially when applied to diseases relating to the nervous system. This is a practical admission of the power of Electricity over the nerves and vital organs, hence it must be evident to a thinking person that a means of intelligently applying this wonderful agent should be the greatest boon to suffering humanity.

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Tell me where you live and I will give you the name of a man in your own town I have cured.

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Dr. McLaughlin's Electric Belt is positively the only electric appliance sold where you receive the advice of a practical physician. I give

Free Book.

I have a book which gives many hundreds of letters from men whom I have cured. Tells all about the signs of decay in men, how they are caused, how they first appear, the way the vital power is wasted, and how all these troubles are cured by electricity. It inspires a man with a desire to be "a man all over." It is full of things a man likes to read. If you will send for it I will send it to you, closely sealed, Free. Consultation Free. You are invited. If you cannot call write for this book at once. Get all the good you can out of life while it lasts.

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Vol. IV, No. 12.

WINNIPEG, CANADA, DECEMBER, 1903.

PRICE 5c. a copy.
50c. a year.

Post Office. A Christmas Story.

Within the commodious kitchen all was warmth, light and bustle. The busy women-folk were getting ready for a big Christmas dinner, and on the table sat luscious pumpkin pies, huge pans of fried cakes and cookies, and other completed goodies, while from a kettle on the stove came the soft "put-put" of stewing cranberries.

As Mandy hurriedly opened the side door and called—"Ezry, bring in some more wood," spicy odors floated out on the frosty air to where Ezra was "saying nothing and sawing wood," and rendered the gone feeling beneath that youth's gingham shirt even more pronounced than it had been for the past hour.

"Gee, Mandy, but them cookin' vittles smells good," panted the hired boy, as he staggered towards her with a load of chunks that required both arms and his chin to steady it, "I kin hardly wait fer day alter tomorrow t' come, kin yew?"

"Oh, I'm gittin' sick of the sight and smell of vittles," petulantly replied the usually good natured daughter of the house. "Hez pa come up from the wood lot yet, Ezry, and where's Bob? I hain't seen him in two or three days."

"No, yer paw hain't come up yit. Bob, Oh, he pikes right fer hum soon's he gits through work nights—guess ye must a' gin him the mitten, ain't ye?"—slyly interjected Ezry, sidling away.

Mandy was oblivious to his last remark, as she gazed intently from beneath the shade of her plump, little hand, down across lots toward the stretch of woodland.

"Most likely Bob has to get home to do the chores 'fore it gets too dark," she murmured to herself. "I 'spose his pa's feelin' miserable again. He's had such bad luck this year, I don't wonder he feels sick at heart."

"I wonder if that's why Bob has been so kind of offish lately? Maybe he thinks his pa's bad luck and the mortgage an'-an'-everything'll make a difference to pa-an'-an'-me—," She lapsed into silence as other thoughts seemed to spread a soft blush over her dimpled cheeks.

Mandy Summers was a pretty girl. Several people had told her so, and she believed them. She was sensible enough to know that she did not possess sufficient physical charms to pose as a belle, for throughout the neighborhood were many other handsome young women. But it was not for Mandy's healthy beauty alone that she was so popular. She had a simple, lovable nature that endeared her to all.

Bob Winters was a sturdy, good looking fellow, with a sunny disposition that made him also a favorite. His folks were near neighbors to Mandy's folks, and the young people had always been great friends. They generally enjoyed the innocent sports of the seasons together. It usually happened that where Mandy was,—at a picnic or party, at

husking bee, or church "sociable," Bob was sooner or later near her side. So it had become neighborhood conjecture that they were seriously "going together,"—which meant much in that vicinity.

Young Ezry had crystallized the expectations of the neighbors when he remarked that he 'sposed it wouldn't be long 'fore Mandy'd have Bob Winters and Bob would have Mandy Summers, and they'd both have each other the rest of the year.

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the farm, eked out by the extra work Bob did at odd times about the neighborhood.

In addition to his other troubles,—or perhaps partly by reason of them, Bob's father was generally "poorly." If matters went wrong with him, he had a "miserable spell." This, of course, did not ease matters for his family.

Although Ezry said he thought "day after termorrow would never come," it did finally dawn, bright, crisp and cold, with a light fall of snow on the ground. Gran'pa Summers, as he came in with

clamored for a "bite," only to be told they must save their appetites for the big dinner, and this admonition aided by the appetizing odors from the kitchen made them all the more ravenous.

Toward noon, the last arrivals came, and among them the Winters family, whom the Summerses always insisted upon entertaining at Christmas. Mrs. Winters said: "Paw didn't feel like comin' but I just told him he'd fergit his misery if he'd only come over and eat some of Mis' Summerses' roast turkey and Mandy's mince pies."

Mandy became all at once busily engaged with theretofore unthought-of tasks attendant upon the details of dinner getting, as soon as Bob came to the house. She noted out of the corner of her eye that he exhibited none of his old time buoyancy of manner, as he mingled with the assembled guests, and wondered thereat, but she did not give him any opportunity for the tete-a-tete he several times sought. He cornered her once, and began a stammering conversation, but she suddenly thought of new duties and hurried away to give them attention. Bob looked as if he wished she would consider him in the light of a duty.

Finally the dinner was announced. The long table in the dining room was daintily garnished and provided with pretty china gleaming silver and the whitest of table linen.

Such a feast, and all did justice thereto, with appetites possessed only by healthy, hard-working children. Mr. Winters, "poorly" as he was, submitted to three "helpin's" of turkey, one of chicken pie, with generous accompaniments of vegetables, and topped off with a piece of each pie and cake and three cups of coffee.

Young Ezry's only disappointment was that he "couldn't hold no more," and he groaned and panted every time he moved, the balance of the day, so thoroughly had he "stuffed" himself.

The remainder of the day passed in gaiety in which young and old joined. Mandy was the life of the party, and she planned games and contests that kept young and old busy all the afternoon and evening.

To Mandy's mother, who had anxiously noted her daughter's downcast air for the past few days, the girl's gaiety of manner seemed forced; but this none of the others noticed, except possibly Bob, who became more and more downcast at Mandy's apparent forgetfulness of his presence, especially as all the other young men visitors were recipients of many little courtesies from her, and one in particular, a quondam rival of Bob's, seemed to get on finely with Mandy all that day.

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The old house soon rang with the music of the childish treble, the subdued soprano of the women and the hearty bass voices of the men, the latter discussing crops,—past and future; the busy housewives discussed the topics of cooking and table decoration; the children enjoyed their games and often



Christmas
1903



Western Home Monthly

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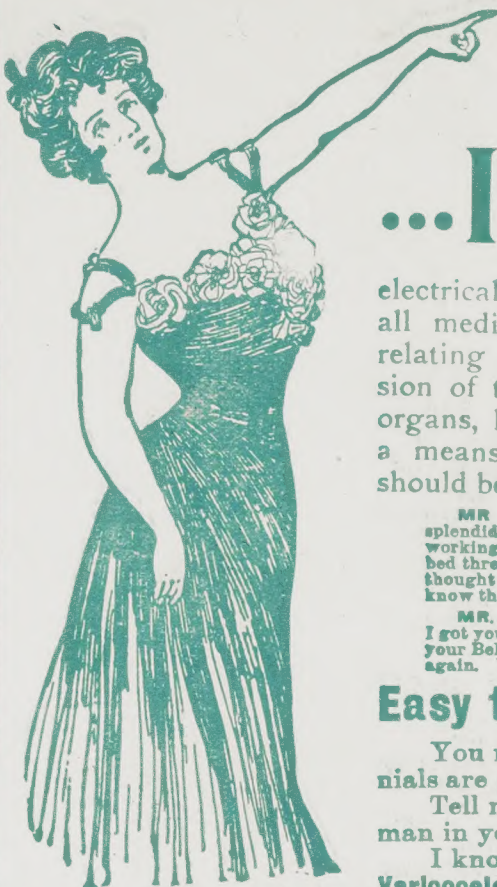
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Toward noon, the last arrivals came, and among them the Winters family, whom the Summerses always insisted upon entertaining at Christmas. Mrs. Winters said: "Paw didn't feel like comin' but I just told him he'd fergit his misery if he'd only come over and eat some of Mis' Summerses' roast turkey and Mandy's mince pies."

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allotted youth. Just then, the mischievous little miss who acted as post-mistress, espied Bob passing the door, and shouted, "Come here, Bob Winters, there's two letters in the postoffice for you!"

Bob, who was ignorant of Mandy's whereabouts, entered at once into the spirit of the occasion and permitted himself to be boisterously shoved through the doorway into the dimly-lighted room where Mandy sat. Both blushed rosy red, and Bob made no move to claim his "letters."

"Mandy," finally said the big fellow, shamefacedly, "I—I bin awful busy lately,—hev ye missed me?" No answer. "I tell ye, Mandy," desperately, "I've bin awful discouraged, too, 'bout the farm, an' paw, an—an' you. Last night I told paw I wuz goin' to give up an' go west. He don't want me to go, and hez offered to let me run the farm as I've allus wanted to, with up-to-date ways of farmin', but I don't know about it. I'm sure in a few years I could get our farm in good payin' condition,—but I could make more money out west, maybe. I—I hate to leave you, Mandy."

There was no response from the bowed little figure but as the fire suddenly sent a glow over the room Bob thought he saw a quiver of her lips as Mandy turned away her head.



"THERE WAS NO RESPONSE FROM THE BOWED LITTLE FIGURE."

"I think in a couple of years I can clear off the mortgage and put money in the bank if I stay, and then,"—thoughtfully, "I'll want to ask ye somethin' if—if 'tain't too late—"

"Better ask me now, Bob," and the startled eyes were covered with ten chubby fingers, and the ruddy, brown head somehow "got next" to Bob's broad shoulder.

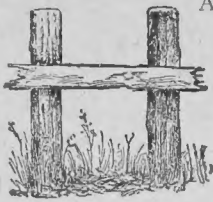
When the conversation ended, Mandy had promised to wait a year, and Bob's face beamed, as he boldly took his "letters."

"I shan't send you after any more letters, Bob Winters," pettishly pouted the little postmistress, when he finally emerged from the kitchen, "you stay too long."

Next Christmas, Mother Summers was in her glory presiding over a doubly notable dinner,—a Christmas and a wedding feast. Games for the young people formed part of the festivities and you may rest assured "post office" was not omitted.

The Lost Diamonds

Written for The Western Home Monthly.



AD any one dropped into the little town of W—in Western Manitoba one bright spring day four years ago they would not have noticed anything different from the usual small Manitoba town. The row of red elevators stood beside the track, a huge sign board on the small station indicating in flaring white letters the name of the town and a couple of streets straggled away from the station. On either side of the principal street stood several small stores and the post-office and the usual complement of teams tied in front. Further on stood the bank and a hotel. All looked peaceful to the casual observer, but on asking anyone, from the venerable hotel keeper to the school boy, what the news was, you would be informed of the bank robbery.

In the town lived Mr. Rose, a wealthy English gentleman who was conducting a banking business. His son, Harry, a bright boy of 21 or 22, was the eldest of the family. Another townsman was Mr. Bedford, with his wife and daughter Grace. Mr. Bedford and Mr. Rose were old country acquaintances and consequently the two, Harry and Grace, were playmates when little, and their friendship had ripened into something stronger and at the time of the opening of our story they were regarded as affianced.

On the morning of the day we have mentioned Mr. Rose went down to open the bank and found that the safe had been tampered with, and a large sum of money and what he valued much more, a magnificent set of family diamonds, were stolen.

Harry had been out in the country to spend the night and his father anxiously awaited his return. Imagine his consternation when he heard that he had left for home the night before at midnight. A horrible suspicion flashed across his mind. Had Harry been tempted and stolen the jewels?

The facts of the matter were these: When Harry returned he went to the bank to leave his wheel and had discovered that the safe had been opened. Immediately he thought that half an hour before, a freight train had pulled out of the town and that in all probability the man, a stranger who had been around town for a few days, whom Harry suspected, had taken the freight as far as Brandon and would take chances of getting away from there clear.

Being of an adventurous disposition he determined to intercept the train at the next station where it stopped for some time and have the man detained there. So he wheeled away from the place of his home and love in the starry midnight hour and little dreamed of what would transpire ere he saw the town of W— again.

When he reached the place where he had hoped to hold the train he found it just pulling out, and without a thought he abandoned his wheel and boarded the outgoing train. Of course he was unable to go from car to car and when Brandon was reached he failed to find his man in the crowd. He wandered about for a while and then went to bed. He slept so soundly that the clock in his room indicated ten

when he awoke in the morning much chagrined to find that the express for the west had been gone for some time. On making inquiries from the station loungers he learned that a man answering the description he gave, had gone on that train. He spent the day in a fever of impatience and next morning started westward.

While staying at Calgary for a few hours he learned that a man answering the same description had got off the day previously and had gone southward by means of a horse.

Now confident of securing his man, Harry purchased a pony and started in

the robbery of Mr. Rose's bank. The disappearance of Harry Rose, and as no word of his whereabouts has been received by his parents, it is suspected that he was tempted to appropriate the jewels which one day would have been his own by right."

Harry's first thought was "I'll go back and prove my innocence and then he thought again, "No, if they think me a thief, let them do it."

For days he remained there not gaining much strength and finally he was ordered south by his doctor. Arriving in Southern California late in September he soon regained his lost strength. While accompanying his doctor on his rounds one day he came upon a dying man who had been fatally injured in a collapse of a building. He immediately recognized him as the stranger who had been in the town a few days previous to the robbery of

BOYS and GIRLS

Do you wish to secure
The Western Home Monthly
for the year 1904.

**Send one answer to Puzzle
or one New Puzzle.**

See page 32 of this paper.

No money is required.

pursuit. When about twenty miles south of the town his pony refused to cross a small creek and on being urged bucked in true broncho style deposited his rider on the ground where he was found a few minutes later by a rancher.

Medical aid was summoned and he was found to be suffering from concussion of the brain. For weeks he lay in the rancher's shanty talking wildly at times of diamonds, bronchos and Grace Bedford.

It was three months before he was able to sit up and then he turned his

father's bank. The recognition was mutual and the dying man confessed the whereabouts of the precious jewels.

Harry lost no time in returning to W—and soon dispelled all doubts of the diamonds. Great was the joy of his parents and friends, to say nothing of Miss Bedford, who wore the jewels which had caused so much suffering for her lover on the following New Year's day, a wedding gift from Mr. Rose.

Who comes dancing over the snow?
His soft little feet all bare and rosy?
Open the door, though the wild winds blow.

Take the child in and make him cosy.
Take him in and hold him dear,
He is the wonderful New Year.

Open your heart, be it sad or gay,
Welcome him there and treat him kindly;

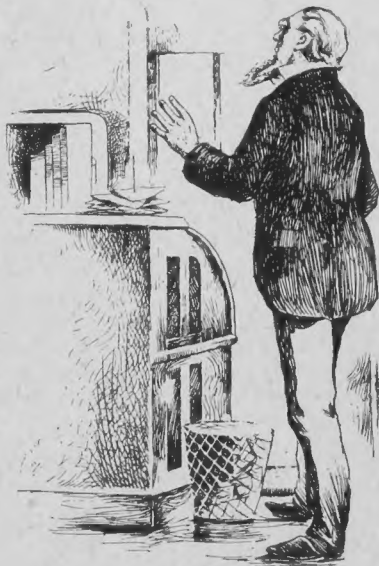
For you must carry him yea or nay,
Carry him with shut eyes so blindly.
Whether he bringeth joy or fear,
Take him. God sends him, this good New Year.

—Dinah Mulock Craik.

Lemon juice and milk well rubbed in make an excellent polish for brown shoes. Afterwards rub with a soft duster. Stains may be removed by rubbing with methylated spirit. Polish afterwards either with the lemon juice and milk or with the following cream: One ounce of muriatic acid, half an ounce of alum, half an ounce of spirits of lavender, half an ounce of gum arabic and half an ounce of skim milk. Add a little turpentine to the water with which the floor is scrubbed. It will take away the close smell and make the room delightfully fresh.

Never hearken to the voice of the tempter.

Never growl over unpleasant duties.

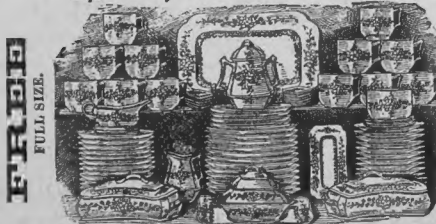


"A HORRIBLE SUSPICION FLASHED ACROSS HIS MIND."

thoughts to home. On the ranchers' return from Calgary one day he brought a bundle of old papers for his lodgers to read. Imagine Harry's consternation at finding a paper several weeks old from his home with an article which read:

"No light has as yet been thrown on

\$1,000 REWARD



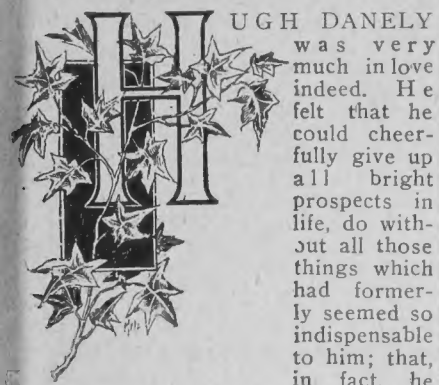
They are handsomely decorated with blue, green and gold. On we will allow you 50 per cent. commission for selling our assorted remedies.

COLONIAL MEDICINE COMPANY, No. 71 BROADWAY, DEPT. 110, NEW YORK.

To anyone who will prove we do not do as we advertise. We want to have our marvelous household remedies used by every family in America, and we intend to give away at least 25,000 DINNER SETS in order to do this. Do you want one? Please note the only conditions: Send us your name and address and we will send you eight boxes of our remedies; sell each box at 25c, and return us ONLY \$1.00 of the \$2.00 received for the sale of our medicine. This \$1.00 is to know your good faith and that you really want the dishes. The second dollar you send us ONLY after you receive the dishes and have actually used them, and are entirely satisfied that they are equal to any \$10.00 set you can purchase in the country. We trust you with the dishes and also with \$1.00 received for our medicine. We do this because you may have been fooled by some fake concern; and we want you to thoroughly appreciate our honesty. The dinner set consists of 66 pieces, and is FULL size for family use; including soup plates, dinner, tea, and bread plates; cups and saucers, cover dishes, coffee pot, butter and milk pitcher.

An Opportune Burglar

Written for the Western Home Monthly by Horace DeGeer.



HUGH DANELY was very much in love indeed. He felt that he could cheerfully give up all bright prospects in life, do without all those things which had formerly seemed so indispensable to him; that, in fact, he would die, to be able to call his own, to have the right to watch over and protect, that dainty darling, Bessie Brownell, one of the most beautiful belles of the day. With this young lady more than a score of young fellows were passionately in love.

Danely was not a conceited man, although he had been the darling of his set for a number of years, and had to use all his ingenious diplomacy on several occasions to escape as many matrimonial snares set for him by ambitious mothers of charming marriageable daughters.

No, it was not vanity that made Hugh Danely believe that Miss Brownell particularly reciprocated his affections; but deep in his heart he treasured sundry words, looks, and chance slips which made his heart beat wildly with the hope that Miss Bessie held more than a mere common place regard for him.

Of course, no one so well bred as she would show her liking to any marked degree, but some instinct, perhaps the telepathic communication which is supposed to exist between kindred souls, told him that he might hope, just as it also told him that Miss Brownell must be aware of his ardent love, honestly and manfully as he had tried to keep it from showing itself too prominently in her presence.

Sometimes Danely called himself a blanked fool for daring to think such a thing, but the conviction grew daily so much stronger that he would have undoubtedly declared his love long before our story opens but for one thing.

Miss Brownell, as an orphan and elegant young lady of society, had a chaperon and guardian, in the person of her aunt, Miss Louisa Patterson, a severe looking spinster of uncertain age. Miss Louisa performed her duties rigidly and with a holy fear of preventing any space in her actions or those of her niece, in which the thin edge of the wedge of scandal might be inserted. She succeeded admirably, but her ideas of etiquette and deportment were so rigid that she insisted that all interviews with Miss Bessie must take place in her presence. As the cold and disturbing influences of a severe dame are not counted to produce an atmospheric condition fitting for loverlike compliments and declarations, it is no wonder that Miss Bessie's score of suitors were reduced to a state of wild despair.

But if the other nineteen were in such condition, Hugh Danely was in one infinitely worse. He was a lawyer by profession and a year before had had the misfortune to grievously offend Miss Patterson. It was with no little fear that he had first ventured into the presence of the spinster and the result fully justified his fears.

Miss Patterson had treated him with such a marked coldness of manner as to cause the other smitten nineteen to rejoice in secret, as the handsome and fascinating personality of the vivacious Danely was to them as a thorn in the side.

Hugh felt sure that if the obstacle of Miss Patterson's dislike for him were removed, he could easily outstrip the dandified nineteen and win for his own the at present unattainable object, the

thoughts of whom kept him tossing on a sleepless pillow for hours at a time.

Such was the rather complicated and wholly unsatisfactory state of affairs which existed on the night our story opens. Hugh, a fragrant cigar between his teeth, threw himself into a chair by his open window to think over the situation. It was in one of the rooms of the fashionable hotel in which they were all staying, and he had thought over the matter at least twenty times before, but to-night there seemed a chance.

His face did not wear quite so hopeless a look as it was accustomed to do during these reveries. Instead he seemed to be in remarkably good spirits and a gleeful chuckle broke from him now and then as if from some pleasant anticipation. He seem-



"STEPPING BACK, HE PLANTED A QUICK BLOW ON THE BURGLAR'S FACE."

ed rather anxious, too, for he frequently consulted the clock on the mantel, only to lean back in his chair and continue to blow the smoke in fragrant wreaths about his head.

The rooms occupied by the ladies in whom he was so interested, were on the same floor as his own. The hotel was very quiet this evening, as most of the guests were enjoying themselves abroad.

Suddenly the solitary smoker sprang to his feet and stood listening. A stealthy footstep had passed his door and gone on up the hall. While he listened he heard it stop short a little way up. The next moment a door banged open and shut just as two frightened feminine screams came to Danely's ear.

Waiting for no more the young lawyer opened his own door and ran up the hall to the door of the room in which were Miss Brownell and her chaperon.

"Are you in need of assistance?" Miss Brownell asked Hugh.

He heard a stir in the room and the

trembling voice of the chaperon replied:

"Oh, yes, Mr. Danely! A horrid burglar has locked the door and is in the other room at our trunks."

And a softer but no less frightened voice exclaimed, tearfully:

"Oh, please, Mr. Danely—Hugh, please do help us!"

She had called him Hugh! With a sudden bound of his heart, he set his shoulder to the door and the lock gave. As he entered the room, a hoarse oath came from the other room, and the figure of a burglar rushed out and levelled a pistol at Hugh. Dodging under it, the latter struck up the arm and grappled with his assailant. For a few minutes the battle raged hotly, neither appearing to have the advantage. The two ladies, too frightened to call for further assistance, sat as if fascinated by the sight. At last Hugh, by a quick jerk, secured the pistol and threw it to the farthest corner of the room. Then, stepping back, he implanted a quick blow on the burglar's face, and quickly followed it up by two more.



"HE THREW HIMSELF INTO A CHAIR NEAR THE OPEN WINDOW."

and—oh! I can't let you say anything about it at all! Please keep it a secret."

"Since you desire it, I shall surely do so," replied Hugh, gravely. "The hotel was deserted to-night, and I think the scuffle was not heard," and a strange look of relief passed over his face.

Evidently softened by this episode, Miss Louisa shortly left the room, and gave Hugh the opportunity he most desired, a tete-a-tete with Miss Bessie.

Although surprised and delighted by Miss Patterson's sudden melting, Hugh made the most of his chance and in five minutes had poured out the story of his love, and, to his great joy, received a very favorable answer.

Beaming with happiness, he sought out Miss Bessie's chaperon and asked her consent to the union.

Rather to his surprise, the lady burst into tears, and exclaimed that she gave her hearty consent, and that she would do anything in the world for the noble man who had risked his life to protect herself and her niece.

At a late hour that night, Danely ran down the steps of the hotel, the happiest man in the world. Despite the lateness of the hour, Hugh's business was not yet done and he immediately hailed a car and went up town to the rooms of his friend, the actor, Harry Brooke.

"Well, old man," the latter exclaimed, as Danely burst in, a vision of happiness. "Everything come out right, eh?"

"Splendid, thank you, Brooke, and I say, wasn't that a bright idea of mine to appease the old lady's disfavor? I say, Harry, you can act burglar to perfection!"

"Well," returned Brooke, with a laugh, "I fancy I did do rather well. It was lucky, though, that the hotel was deserted. 'I have a few remembrances here,' he added, pointing to his chin, on which were several pieces of court plaster.

"Here's something to make that right," Danely replied, putting a fifty-dollar bill on the table. "No, you must take it. It's getting late, so I must go. Goodnight, old man, and happy dreams. You've done me a favor I can never forget, and enabled me to win for my wife the sweetest girl in the world."

It is better to feed only once a day and compel the hens to scratch, than to feed two or three times a day and have the hens sit around and wait for you to bring them their meals. It is the active hen, the one that scratches and works, that lays, and not the one that gets the most food. A litter of cut straw is the best place in which to put the grain, and the hens will be sure to find all of it.

READ THIS—but

UNDERSTAND AT ONCE THAT OUR GENUINE PENNYROYAL WAFERS

are not for men, but women have for 20 years found them the best monthly regulator procurable, allaying "pains," correcting omission and irregularity. They are, in a word, reliable and healthful; \$1.00 per box, mailed anywhere; sold everywhere; 36 in box; yellow label; English-French printed.

Eureka Chemical Co., Detroit, Mich.

Boys and Girls

The Dolls' Letter to Santa Claus.

The Nursery, Nineteen Hundred,
Three,
December twenty-third.

Dear Santa Claus,

We venture
To write you just a word
To let you know in season
As Christmas time draws near,
What little Sallie's dollies
Would like to have this year.

The baby needs a cradle—
Her own is much too small;
Perhaps that is the reason
She never grows at all.
And bring a bright bandanna
For Mammy's woolly head,
From way down South in Dixie,
Where she was born and bred.

Louisa says her bonnet
Is sadly out of date—
She hasn't had a new one
Since eighteen ninety-eight.
She hates to let you choose it
Because you are a man,
But maybe it will suit her
If you do the best you can.

We'd like a set of dishes—
Our old one's nearly gone;
Full half the plates are broken,
And all the cups but one.
The spoons have long been missing,
And all of us agree
That forks are not convenient
When one is sipping tea.

Please bring a little carriage,
Lucille Matilda begs;
She suffers from dyspepsia
Because of broken legs.
As walking's not much pleasure
She rarely ventures out,
And feels she'd soon be better
If she could drive about.

Almira wants a necklace,
And Rosalie, a dress;
An easy-chair for Hattie,
And this is all, we guess—
Not all that we could think of,
But all we could expect,
And if you'll not forget us

We are
Yours with great respect,
Louisa Arabella.
Almira Henriette.
Lucille Matilda Frances.
Ann Rosalie Lisette.
Jane Hattie Angelina.
X Stands for Baby Blue.
X Stands for Mammy Dinah.
Maria Roberta Sue.

P. S. Private:

The children played at Indians
On last Thanksgiving night,
And Tommy Tucker scalped me,
And made me just a fright.
So if you could remember
A curly wig for me,
I'd be your ever grateful,
Devoted,
Susy Lee.

—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Two Saras.

A FAIRY STORY.

Written by E. F. Tannahill and M. E. Gow,
two girls, each twelve years old.

Once there was a little girl whose
father and mother were very poor.
Her name was Sara. All she had to
play with was a broken bottle. So one
day when her father found a rabbit
in the woods and brought it home for
her she was very glad. The rabbit got
to be very tame, and Sara loved it
very much.

One day the rabbit wandered off and
got lost in the woods. Sara started
out to find him and got lost also.
She went south quite a way and
thought she was going home.

By-and-by she came to a large oak
tree with a small door in one side of

it. She being a very curious little girl,
opened it and went in.

Sara found herself in a large room
with a table in the centre of it. Seated
around it were twelve dwarfs. When
they saw her they called out, "Helloa
there, what do you want?" "Oh! I
got lost in the woods, won't you take
me home?" And Sara began to cry
bitterly. They told her that she would
have to stay with them and be their
servant.

The dwarfs soon get sleepy and went
to bed.

Sara was shown to the room which
she was to occupy.

In the night she got up and tried the
door, but found it locked. She hunted
around and at length discovered a
stairway. She climbed up to the top
and found herself among the branches
of the tree. She jumped and struck
the ground so hard that she broke in
two. The pieces immediately became
little girls. These girls walked, talked,
moved and looked alike, so that you
could not see any difference in the two.

They stared at each other awhile,
till one said "Who are you?" and the
other said in the same voice "Who
are you?"

They ran farther into the woods and
presently came to a hollow tree and
crept into it and went to sleep.

The next morning a rich man hap-
pened to drive by the tree and saw
the children in it asleep. He was much
surprised to see how much alike they
were. He awakened them and asked
them who they were.

The first one said "My name is
Sara," the other one said also, "My
name is Sara."

The man laughed and lifted them
into the coach and went home.

One night, after the nurse had bath-
ed them, she heard them laughing.
She went up and asked them what they
were laughing at. The first Sara said,
"You gave me two baths and she
none," and the other Sara said the
same. The nurse did not know what
they meant and went away.

By-and-by the man got tired of them
and shut them up in a tower.

One day they were up on top of
the tower, and a girl who liked them
saw them and threw a rope up to
them and told them to fasten it to
the railing. Then she climbed up and
tied them on to her, and slid down the
rope with them. They had to sleep
in a tree that night. When they had
gone to sleep the Saras fell off, and
became the same little girl that had
lost her rabbit.

Her home was not far away and
when she reached it her parents were
very glad to see her.

A Short Xmas Story.



The King is the Man Who Can.

Thomas Carlyle wrote a considerable
amount of readable matter in his day;
but in all his works we have never
run across a line that contains as much
suggestion as he has infused into the
seven one-syllable words here quoted.

All the elements of success are there,
boys.

The whole secret of greatness sticks
out conspicuously from the simple sen-
tence.

If this mighty thinker had never pro-
duced another phrase he would not
have lived in vain.

"The King is the Man who Can."

That is, the individual who attains
to the highest degree of success, in
any walk of life, is the one who over-
comes whatever may stand in his way,
and reaches the goal for which he is
striving despite all obstacles.

Now, by a little simple reasoning we
may finally arrive at the root of the
matter.

The Man who Can must be a strong
Man.

To be strong one must have a sound
body and a sound mind.

A sound body is the result of proper
living.

A sound mind is the result of a
sound body together with unceasing
study.

Study is productive of thought.

Therefore, the Man who Can is the
man who thinks, and to become king,
that is, to achieve final success, means
to live properly, to study, and to
think.

Seems very simple, doesn't it?

But it is not so simple when we at-
tempt to follow out this programme
in our every-day life. The present con-
dition of the world—the tendency to
attempt to win out by a single plunge
—the feverishness of the wonderful era
through which we are passing—all mili-
tate against such a method, and the
result is that Men who Can are not
so numerous as they might be.

In Carlyle's brief sentence everyone
may find a motto worthy their adop-
tion, although we fear that not many
will adopt it. Still, if only one person
is attracted by it and moved to ask,
"Have I fitted myself to become a
Man who Can?" we shall feel amply
repaid for bringing the line to the at-
tention of our readers.—Profitable Ad-
vertising.

How to Succeed.

Be efficient—be able to do some-
thing well.

Be courageous—be not afraid to fol-
low out your convictions.

Be persevering—go on to the end
and never waver.

Be honest. No pretence will do.
The entire fabric will some day col-
lapse if mere pretension be in the
foundation.

Be chaste. Impurity is contrary to
God's unchangeable law of success, and
he can never succeed who does not
keep himself pure so that he may

gather himself together for life's con-
flict.

Be temperate. Drink has slaughtered
millions. Let no young woman
marry a drunkard because she loves
and wants to save him. The writer
has never known a case where this
succeeded. Before marriage the woman
has the man—after marriage the man
has the woman.

Be godly. No young man can be
a real success without this. He may
gather a bit of money, may secure a
little political distinction, may be able
to secure positions of importance in
the business world; but as in all nature
the higher is served by the lower, so
here—the grass supports the cattle, the
cattle serve man by feeding his phy-
sical nature, the physical nature serves
the intellectual nature that is in him,
and the intellectual nature sustains the
soul. Our highest being, and the
trinity in man—the physical, mental
and spiritual in glorious combination
of trinity in unity—only attains its
supreme excellence when its humble
service is laid at the feet of Him who
is all in all.



"WHO'S AFRAID?"

"An' den Santy Claus he come down
the chimbley—" "Doan he git his face
all black wif soot" "Wal, he doan
mind dat when he's a-callin' on cullud
chillun."—Puck.

Boys' and Girls'

See the offer under the heading of "PUZZLE"
on page 32.

Send one answer, or one NEW PUZZLE,
and receive . . .

The Western . Home Monthly for 1904.

Here are a few opinions regarding Western Canada's
Illustrated Family Paper:

"It is a splendid journal, and should be in every home
in the West."

"I think it just fine."

"In its new form it compares very favorably with
any 50c monthly I know."

"It should be read by all."

"It is one of the nicest home papers I ever read."

"The Western Home Monthly is on excellent paper."

Weeping Improves the Sight.

"Tears have their functional duty to accomplish, like every other fluid of the body, and the lachrymal gland is not placed behind the eye simply to fill space or to give expression to emotion," says an exchange.

"The chemical properties of tears consist of phosphate of lime and soda, making them very salty, but never bitter. Their action on the eye is very beneficial, and here consists their prescribed duty of the body, washing thoroughly that sensitive organ, which allows no foreign fluid to do the work. Nothing cleanses the eye like a good salty shower bath, and medical art has followed Nature's law in this respect, advocating the invigorating solution for any distressed condition of the optics.

"Tears do not weaken the sight, but improve it. They act as a tonic on the muscular vision keeping the eye soft and limpid, and it will be noticed that women in whose eyes sympathetic tears gather quickly have brighter, tenderer orbs than others. When the pupils are hard and cold, the world attributes it to one's disposition, which is a mere figure of speech, implying the lack of balmy tears that are to the cornea what salve is to the skin or nourishment to the blood."—Clipping.

Yachob's Experience.

I travel me dis world around,
To find dis question out,
If der best place is for living
In der Nort or in der Sout.

In der East among der peoples,
In der Vest or on der sea,
In der hot und sweaty climate
Or out on der vild prairie.

I vas travel over countries
Vot I neffer saw before;
I vas talk mit lots of peoples,
As I sail from shore to shore.

Some tink der bestest place to live
Vas in der sunny Sout,
Where you neffer feel der shiver
Effery time vot you go out.

Some say der bestest place to live
Vas in der mountains high,
You always get fresh air to smell
Ven you're close up to der sky.

But seems dat most der peoples
Like it best in some varm place,
Vere you don't get freece und chilly
Dot you git blue in der face.

I live from since I first was born
Till now I'm old and grey,
I study out dis question till
It looks to me dis vay.

A man vot's in some country
Where he makes him lots of gold
No difference vedder Klondike,
To him it don't vas cold.

A man vot's broke in any clime,
Und got none of der dough,
Und ask "Please" for "a hand out"
Und he gets der answer "No."

To him der place vas chilly,
Und he feel blue in der face.
Der sun kin shine a hundred hot,
He's in der chilly place.

But where man kin make some money,
Dot is where he like it best,
He kin always find a varm place
For to eat und for to rest.

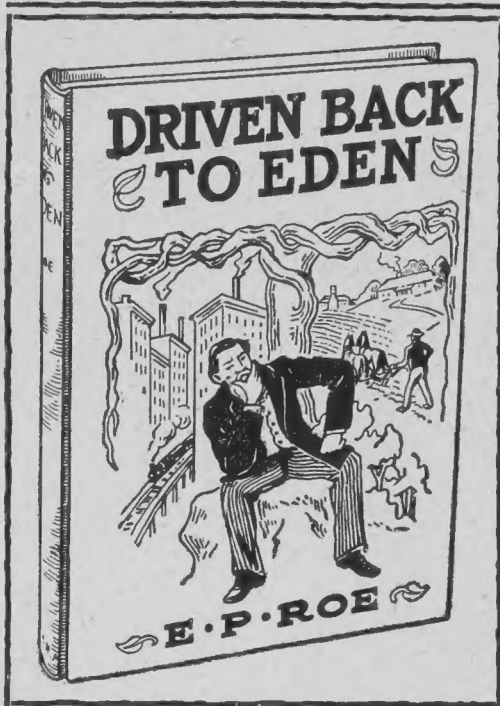
But no matter how der sun shine,
In your head dis story hold,
Der man vots got no money
Finds der world a leetle cold.

V. H.

Never pay any attention to the croakers—go right ahead and push for business.
Never rest content with well doing—try to improve upon the past.
Never expose your hand—somebody is likely to give it away.
Never beg business—go after it on business principles.
Never accept bribes—they ultimately lead to trouble.
Never quarrel—fight and have it done with.

UNPRECEDENTED OFFER

Keep Your Boys AT HOME.



THE ATTRACTIVE SIDE OF FARM LIFE

MORE OPPORTUNITIES
for a
GOOD FARMER
than an
INDIFFERENT CLERK

A NOVEL FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

History in Detail of a New York Family's Determination to Leave the Crowded City Flat, and How Each Member Contributed to the Success Attained in Less Than a Year.

THE CITY STRUGGLE

This fascinating story by E. P. Roe, the well-known author of "Barriers Burned Away," and "Opening of a Chestnut Burr," takes up the life of Robert Durham, bookkeeper for a large New York house, his delicate wife and four children; one an invalid. It tells of the struggles of the father to take care of the ever increasing expenses, how he sees the wife and invalid daughter growing weaker daily, the two boys, both mere children drifting into associations more contaminating than an infectious disease, his own falling strength, and inability to increase income or change conditions.

A PURE LIFE

The author tells in his simple, clear way, the decision to throw off the yoke of serfdom, to break away from conditions sapping the very life blood of every member of the precious little family, and to go to the country with the hope that a living could be made by farming, and physical and moral conditions brought to a point where they could all thank God for the daily enjoyment of a pure life.

GOOD LITERATURE

With a few hundred dollars saved from a meagre salary, Robert Durham makes a part payment on a 100 acre farm within three hours of the city. Months before leaving for their future home, literature of every kind giving information on farming or kindred topics was eagerly read and discussed by every member of the entire family, so that when in early March the move was actually made, no small amount of information had been accumulated. Arriving at the farm, attention was at once given to all of the small things which usually go towards making either a success or failure of "Life in the Country."

PROFIT AND PLEASURE

Each chapter of the life's history tells of the actual experiences with the Poultry, Cattle, Pigs, Bees; with the berries, fruit and garden truck, as well as the general farming operations, of the mistakes made, all of which were profited by, and how each member of this family born and reared in a city apartment building (by a limited effort), within one year clearly demonstrated the possibility of a life as God intended it.

A HAPPY FAMILY

At the end of one year, after taking stock and going over all the accounts, the happy wife and mother sums up the situation by saying: "You have solved the problem, Robert, that was worrying you. There is space here for the children to grow and the Daggetts and the Ricketts, and all their kind, are not so near as to make them grow wrong in spite of us. A year ago we felt that we were virtually being driven to the country. I now feel as if we had been led by a kindly and divine hand."

The Western Home Monthly Wants Every Subscriber to Read This Book.

It is packed full of information respecting country life told in an interesting way, that will benefit both the country reader and the city bred families who know little of Nature. A book to read aloud in the family circle.

It is written in language so simple that a small child will clearly understand. It will be of absorbing interest to the growing boy, and kindle the desire for healthful manly sport.

AN OPPORTUNITY.

In connection with this book we have made a close clubbing arrangement with the Union Gospel News of Cleveland, O., a large 16-page undenominational weekly paper, filled each week with such matter as will be appreciated and eagerly looked for by the entire family. The subscription price is 50 cents per annum, and the publisher's price of "Driven Back to Eden" is \$1.25, but arrangements have been made whereby we can make the following liberal offer:—

THE UNION GOSPEL NEWS	-	-	-	\$.50	All For \$1.50
DRIVEN BACK TO EDEN	-	-	-	1.25	
THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY	-	-	-	.50	
THE FARMER'S BUSINESS GUIDE	-	-	-	1.00	
Total				\$3.25	

Or \$1.25 if order, with money, is received before Feb. 1st, 1904.

The Home Publishing Co. - Winnipeg, Man.

The Home

Empty Stockings.

Oh, mothers in homes that are happy,
Where Christmas comes laden with cheer,

Where the children are dreaming already
Of the merriest day in the year,

As you gather your darlings around you

And tell them the "story of old,"
Remember the homes that are dreary!
Remember the hearts that are cold!

And thanking the love that has dowered you

With all that is dearest and best,
Give freely, that from your abundance
Some bare little life may be blessed!

Oh, go where the stockings hang empty,

Where Christmas is naught but a name,

And give—for the love of the Christ-child:

'Twas to seek such as these that He came!

Substitute for Plum Pudding.

Some of the housewives find that plum pudding, the traditional Christmas pudding, is rather expensive, while others claim that they have not the time to make it. Let such substitute a Saratoga pudding, and few will know the difference. To make one, roll and sift one pint of stale breadcrumbs; add one cupful of flour, a teaspoonful of cinnamon, half of a grated nutmeg, a cupful of brown sugar, a pound of seedless raisins, a quarter of a pound of shredded citron, floured, and half a pound of raw suet, freed from membrane and chopped fine; mix thoroughly. Dissolve one teaspoonful of baking soda in two tablespoonfuls of water, and add it to one cupful of New Orleans molasses; add one egg well beaten, the juice and grated rind of one lemon, and pour it into the dry ingredients. Work all carefully together until it is moist, not wet, and pack it down into a greased kettle or mold. Cover and boil continuously for four hours. Lift the lid of the mold until the pudding is cold, then cover and stand aside. Reheat at serving time. An ordinary lard kettle may be used in place of a mold. This pudding may be made a week before Christmas and heated for the Christmas dinner. Serve hot with hard sauce.

When one cannot afford a hard sauce the next best thing is jelly sauce. Put half a tumblerful of currant jelly into a saucepan, and add a pint of water and the juice of one lemon. Moisten one tablespoonful of corn starch with a little cold water; add it to the jelly and water; cook, and stir until thick and smooth. Serve hot.

Recreation in the Country.

While farmers' wives work very hard in summer, it is also true that they take less exercise than any other class of women. In winter, they are apt to go to the other extreme and sit in a hot room from morning to night, and when they go out it is to drive. A brisk walk is an almost unheard-of thing, and yet we know that no woman can be really strong who does not exercise regularly in the open air. When the roads are bad the farmer's wife will stay for weeks in a poorly ventilated house, and as a consequence her complexion grows coarse and sallow. It is a question which ages a woman more quickly, the season of hard work over the washtub and stove or the winter spent in an almost comatose condition of eating



Different Types of Beauty

he can point out needed repairs or intended improvements. In this way the wife acquires an influence in the conduct of affairs she would not otherwise gain.—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Making of a Paper Napkin.

Millions of paper napkins are consumed annually in America, and, like other things that are common, very little thought is given to the necessary labor expended in the production thereof. The origin of these cheap and very useful sheets of tissue is a matter of speculation. We simply know that they have been in use in China and Japan for many centuries before the art of modern paper making became known. The Japanese paper napkin is hand made, while those produced in America and Europe are the product of complicated machinery.

The designing of the napkins in many instances is the work of Western civilization. For instance, one paper company of Chicago imports something over \$50,000 worth of napkins during each year and the company nearly always furnishes the design.

The Japs are good imitators. One may take a design from any source and forward it to Tokio, where the Japanese artist will reproduce the same both in color and form. They are not only experts at imitation, but they are "foxy" when it comes to making a

and sleeping. Even if the roads are impassable for horses and heavy waggons, the farmer's wife should conscientiously take her daily tramp. She can wear rubber boots or high buttoned arctics, and if well wrapped up will come home from her walk warm and rosy, feeling like another being. Some women have asked, "How can we take a walk without an object. There are no shop windows for us to look at, no people to study on the way." But object can be made; for instance, one day the farmer's wife can walk to school and come home with the children. They

will be delighted and the little visit to the school and the chat with the teacher will do wonders for the woman who really does not know how the place looks in which her little ones spend most of their time. The interest shown by the mother in the school and teacher will have a gracious reflex influence upon the boys and girls. Neighborhood calls can be made also, and if nothing else presents itself she can go with her husband on his daily inspection of the farm. There is nothing in the world that so binds husband and wife together as an expression of interest in the more personal pursuits of one another. The ordinary man likes to have an interested listener to go with him as he walks about his domain, to whom



BLUE RIBBON JELLY POWDER

"The Queen
of Desserts."

Made from the purest materials and flavored with Blue Ribbon Extracts—pure essence of fruit. Clearer, better flavored and better colored than any other kind.

When writing advertisers mention Western Home Monthly.

bargain. Last year this company had a special design for napkins made by one of the students of the Chicago Art Institute.

The design was sent to Japan and a contract made for 1,000,000 napkins to be delivered in Chicago the following May. When the order was about filled an agent of a German paper house happened to see the work and was pleased with the design. He offered the Japs a high price for the napkins and secured them. It was nearly a year before the Hanchett Company received their stock, and then not till after the German house had sold a large order of the special design to a New York house.

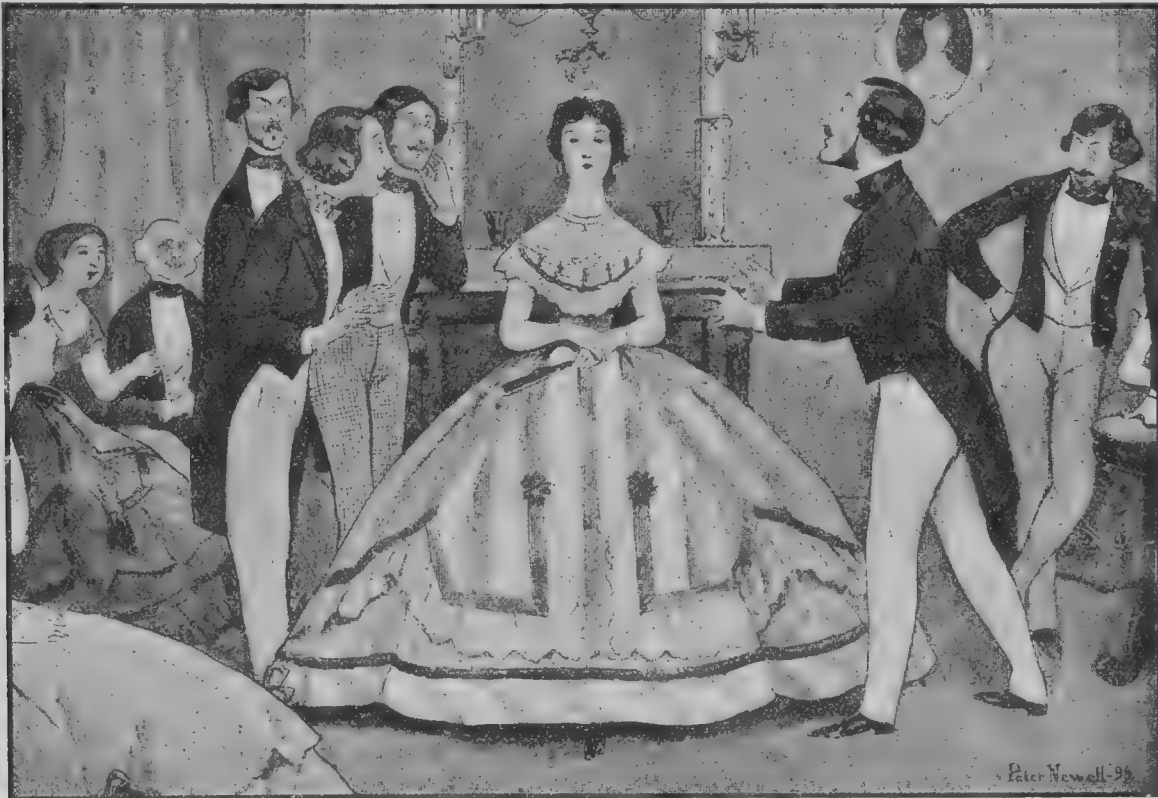
The making of paper in the Orient is full of interest, because of the crude methods of manufacturing as compared with those of the Occident.

Bamboo is the most favored raw material used. The young branchless bamboos are usually cut between the months of May or June, when the plant has attained a height of four or five feet. The stalks are first crushed with a wooden hammer, then placed in a cemented tank some five feet long, three feet wide and four feet deep. Water to cover and a quantity of lime is added, and the material is left thus to decompose for about forty-five days. It is then removed, washed with

screen becomes covered with pulp. The implement is lifted out horizontally and shaken a bit to distribute the pulp evenly. Most of the water passes out quickly through the netting, and, the outer frame being removed, the inner frame is placed in an inclined position to drain. When the water ceases to pass off, the screen is inverted and the soft sheet is allowed to fall out upon a board arranged for that purpose.

Thus the operation proceeds, the sheets being placed one on another until the pile is some three or four inches high. A second board is now superimposed and the lot placed under a long wooden lever near its attached end. By weights placed on the free end of the lever the sheets are subjected to considerable pressure, which removes the superfluous water and gives compactness and firmness to them. On being released from the press the sheets are taken out, four at a time, placed in a split bamboo and hung in the sun today.

—*XXXX*—
 "What's the matter, my son?"
 "Matter! Why, to-night's Christmas eve with Santy Claus and his sleigh coming and pa goes and pushes all the snow off the roof!"—New York Herald.



UNDER THE MISTLETOE—A GLIMPSE BACK INTO THE HOOP-SKIRT PERIOD.

fresh water and placed in a second pit, similar in size to the above, where it is allowed to soak for a further forty-five days or more. The fibrous matter, now much softened, is placed in a stone mortar, which is used with a stone pestle worked by foot, similar to the Chinese rice-cleaning mortar. Here the fibrous material is broken up and crushed until it has been reduced to pulp. It is next placed on a platform and trodden by foot until the water has been partly driven out and the pulp becomes sticky.

The pulp is then removed to a third cement vat, which has been previously partly filled with clean water, and is stirred until the mixture has attained the right consistency. The material is now considered ready for the final operation. For this a screen-like implement is brought into use. This consists of a frame two feet four inches by nine inches, supporting brass wires running crosswise and lacquered bamboo strips lengthwise, forming a fine network. A second frame of thin wood fits closely upon the screen, its outside rim being extended slightly to retain the quantity of pulp required for a single sheet. A third frame holds both the above together, and, by its projecting sides, furnishes a grip for the hands during the manipulation.

The complete implement is now dipped in a vat in such a way that the

Bran is excellent for poultry, and one point in favor of bran is that it contains a much larger proportion of lime than any other cheap food derived from grain, and as the shells of eggs are composed of lime it is essential that food rich in lime be provided. When summer arrives the use of all kinds of food should be with judgment. If the hens have a free range give no food at all as long as they are laying, but if they begin to fall off let bran be a leading ingredient of the foods allowed. In winter the bran and clover is even more essential, as the fowls cannot then secure green food on the range.

—*XXXX*—
 Mildew, iron rust and grease spots are persistent worries in summer time to the careful mother. Rub mildewed spots well with lemon juice and salt and expose to a hot sun. The most delicate fabric will be unharmed. The spots will disappear.

—*XXXX*—
 If the hands are rough and wrinkled try rubbing them with warm oil of sweet almonds and sleeping in loose white cotton or kid gloves. The almond oil is excellent for filling out the wasted skin tissues and will heal the troublesome hang nails.

—*XXXX*—
 Never harass even your enemies.

"Our Boys—God Bless Them."

It is refreshing in this day, when so many boys and young men, born and reared on the farm, are daily crowding into the large cities, to read of a family tired of the incessant toil of city life, of the unsanitary city flat, seeking a living in the country.

So many bright, vigorous young men, who would make excellent farmers, who have been trained by farmer fathers, and who have inherited an agricultural experience of generations, throw aside all these advantages, and seek their fortunes in the cities, away from council of mother and father—away from the refining influences of sisters, and surrounded more often than not by every form of temptation and vice.

We hear occasionally of the success of some country boy in city life. Some young fellow with moral courage enough to withstand temptations at first so little understood, has forged ahead in the business world.

But do we hear of the others who are unable to withstand these temptations—who sink lower and lower in the social scale and finally end life in our city slums.

The problem of the boys leaving home is a serious one. It is a ques-

Funnygrams



Old Gentleman: "I'm ashamed to see you fight that way, boys."

Boys: "We've doin' the best we can, we've never had no trainin'."

—*XXXX*—
 Julia—"What shall I get for you, Jack?" Jack—"Anything Julia—anything at all; only I've sort o' lost my rapid admiration for thing-a-my-jigs made out of crinkled pink tissue paper."—Life.

—*XXXX*—
 The rosy-cheeked maid, the enchanter!
 At Christmas-tide charms you instant-

ter.
 When chased for kiss,
 This obliging young miss
 Allows you to win in a canter.
 —Smart Set.

—*XXXX*—
 First Boy—"Oh, he tried to play hog—he joined eleven different Sunday schools jest before Christmas so ez ter get eleven presents." Second Boy—"Wot did he get?" First Boy—"He got nuttin'—he joined so many he couldn't attend to any of 'em!"—Judge.

—*XXXX*—
 "That new minister," said Mr. Wunder, "is about the biggest fool that has ever come here." "What has he done now?" asked Mrs. Wunder. "Why, the idiot wanted to take up a collection after the Christmas-tree exercises. Might have known there wouldn't be a cent left in the congregation."

—Judge.

tion many a fond parent has spent sleepless nights over.

We want every parent facing this problem to read *Driven Back to Eden*.

It is a book written with a strong moral purpose.

The story cleverly told by E. P. Roe (a noted author) holds the attention of the reader from first to last. The labors performed by the children in the story were those not unknown to thousands of children in the country, nor would they form tasks too severe for many little hands now idle in cities.

The book is one that it would be well to read aloud to the family. Detailed information is given of how step by step this city family, by a combined effort, made a home in the country, a home where wealth was regained and where only happiness prevailed.

As we have secured only a limited number of copies, we suggest that each subscriber read carefully the offer made in the advertisement on page 8 of this issue, and send in order without delay.

—*XXXX*—
 Don't have any overhead ventilation in your poultry house.

Never try to be a high-flier—on a low salary.

Never grumble.



Charles—Your uncle is a religious man, I understand.

Henry—Oh, yes, indeed! He positively hates everybody who belongs to any other church than his own.—Boston Transcript.



A Family Journal devoted to all that appeals to the Home.

—PUBLISHED BY—

THE HOME PUBLISHING CO.

The Stovel Co.,
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THE HOME PUBLISHING CO.
Stovel Building, Winnipeg.

DECEMBER, 1903.

Simple Xmas the Best.

A prominent writer says we have an idea that Christmases as they are celebrated in homes of great wealth must be ideal. Yet often, as a matter of fact, no more lonesome Christmas days are spent anywhere than in such homes. Riches on Christmas are often like sweet bells out of tune. Nothing was simpler than the first Christmas Day, and its strongest appeals to our natures, although we do not always know it, is because it was so simple. Nothing is so fatal to our deepest and truest enjoyment as the realization that we can have whatever we will simply for the wishing or asking. All values are lost then. It is a hard truth for those who have little to believe that the greatest happiness of life is with them: that it is not with those who have abundance. The more we have the less we actually enjoy it. There is a law of compensation that comes in there. The lives of those who have abundance are vastly more complicated than are the lives of those who have little. We are wont to say, "Oh, well, I'd like to try once having all the money I wanted." Thousands have said the same thing only to have their wish come true, and to realize that happiness lay not along the way they thought. It is strange how the poor envy the rich, and then to see how the rich envy the greater and fuller happiness of those who have less. The woman of simplest means is the happiest woman on earth, if she only knew it. She is happiest because her life is simplest, and, therefore, truest.



THE PET OF THE FAMILY.

Never abandon hope.
Never ill-treat employees.
Never indulge in loudness.

The Fire Burns Low.

We gather round the fire,
'Tis in the bleak December,
The evening shadows curtain us,
We watch the fading ember;
For the year is growing old, love,
The wild winds moan and rave;
The night outside is cold, love,
The naked branches wave.

We tell the dear old stories,
We sing the dear old tunes;
The year will soon be seeing
The last of all its moons
The year is going fast, love,
Oh, year, so fair and sweet;
'Twill soon be with the past, love,
Oh, year, so spent so fleet.

We sit around the fire,
Swift pales its crimson glow,
The hour is late and lonesome,
The dear hearth fire burns low.
Twelve months, they seem like one,
love,
So passes life away,
In battles lost and won, love,
In runes of night and day.

It is the dear December,
But yet the zone is bright,
The flame dies to the ember,
To rise in morning's light.
The year is near its end, love,
Another year is nigh,
But friend still clings to friend, love,
Howe'er the years may fly.
—Margaret E. Sangster.

Give the ordinary man a chance and he'll talk his head off. His words are like the barks of a yelping dog; they do not impress but rather irritate the hearer. The extraordinary man is the good listener; the "man who trieth words as the mouth trieth meat." He neither confuses others nor allows himself to be confused by the chattering of business idiots. When he speaks his words are syllables of strength, full of meaning and high purpose. Tactful, yet frank in speech, choosing silence rather than a flood of barren words, the successful man of to-morrow will be he who thinks quickly, speaks slowly, eschews extravagance in expression and labors to be honest. Study the man who talks.

Whenever you can conscientiously encourage anyone, do so. You would not leave those plants in your window without water, or refuse to open the shutters that the sunlight might fall upon them; but you leave some human flower to suffer for want of appreciation or the sunlight of encouragement. There are a few hardy souls that can wait for the dew and the sunbeams, vines that will climb without hardy training, but only a few. Utter the kind word when you can. Give the helping praise when you see that it is deserved. The thought that "no one knows and no one cares" blights many a bud of promise.

There are two kinds of power in the world, and much confusion often ensues to discriminate between them. One is internal, the other is external; one is strength, capacity, ability, knowledge, efficiency; the other is authority, supremacy, position, place, control, rule. It is the latter kind of power that men are usually so eager to obtain, quite oblivious to the fact that unless the former is stored up within them, to meet the necessary demand, the latter is impotent for good, and, moreover, is frequently, a source of untold injury.

It is true that love cannot be forced, that it cannot be made to order, that we cannot love because we ought, or even because we want, but we can bring ourselves into the presence of the lovable. We can enter into friendship through the door of discipleship. We can learn to love through service.

Let it be our constant aim to comfort some sorrow, to relieve some want, to add some strength to our neighbor's virtue.

Pride costs more than hunger, thirst and cold.

Seasonable

Cheap Homemade Presents.

Here are a couple of very nice articles suitable for Christmas presents. They can be easily made by any of the "girls at home" at a very small cost, and, when finished tastefully, are quite an attraction.



The first is a violet powder bag. First take a circular piece of fine white cashmere and embroider violets in their exquisite shadings upon it. Then fill a round bag made of thin material with cornstarch and very good sachet powder. Place over this the embroidered cover, and crochet to the cover a lower part of white wool. Finish this edge with tiny loops of violet satin baby ribbon.



The second cut shows three pretty and useful button-bags made from scraps of silk. Each bag is made separately of different colored material, but all three are run together upon the same drawing string.

Attractive Picture Scrapbooks.

Picture scrapbooks are nice Christmas presents for the little folks, and can easily be made at home. Pictures may be collected from many sources, including the illustrated newspapers, and the advertisement pages of the magazines. Animal pictures are the joy of little boys, and out-of-date colored fashion plates will be sure to please the little girls.

The best material for durable, home-made scrapbooks is paper cambric. Cut as many sheets as are wanted, size eleven inches by nineteen; fold each sheet to make four pages. Place the sheets evenly and fasten them by a ribbon, which should form the back of the book. Tie the ribbon tightly and sew it to the outer leaf at the top and the bottom. The picture may be pasted in with flour paste, mucilage or photographic paste.

Novel Cake Walk.

A fine evening's enjoyment can be had by adopting the course of a decidedly original hostess, quoted in one of our exchanges. It is what is known as a "Cake walk." In order to carry out the idea she invited her guests to attend a special function attired as cakes, but not so openly and palpably that any one could recognize the cake represented.

On the evening chosen for the great event a King and Queen in separate rooms watched the grotesque procession pass before them, the one selecting the greatest number correctly being deputized to bestow a cape upon the couple executing the most surprising steps in the original rag-time manoeuvres. In order that this list should be verified the guests, upon their en-

trance into the drawing room, dropped a slip of paper describing their apparel into a basket held by a person at the door. Thus a young woman in a white apron and chef's cap, with a large E prominently displayed on its front, revealed herself as Cook-I. (cookie). A young man draped in sponges was at once recognized as sponge cake. Another, laden with cups, was the old-time cup cake. It took some guessing to find out what the young man in baseball togs and holding a bat intended himself to represent, but a bright individual decided finally upon "batter cake," which proved to be right. One-two-three-four cake was represented by a smart black costume bearing these numerals in red. The buckwheat cake, the cake of soap and the cake of ice were all wrought out in original fashion. The quaintest conceit, however, was the young man whom no one could define, and who finally announced himself as just "plain cake."

An Easily Made Dessert.

In this western country where fruit—the never-failing friend of the Eastern housewife—is so dear, the dessert problem is no trifle. It is very hard indeed to keep the table supplied with desserts that are sufficiently attractive, reasonably easy to make and do not cost too much. Around Christmas time, when everyone expects something extra, the difficulty is even greater.

One of the busy housekeeper's best standbys is a nice mould of jelly, and, if made properly, the family never seem to tire of it. Perhaps the reason it is not used more is the difficulty of making it in the old-fashioned way. The modern plan, and by far the best, is to make it from jelly powder. A ten cent packet is sufficient for a meal for an ordinary sized family, and the jelly is much more tasty and attractive and cheaper than the home-made kind. All the preparation needed is to dissolve the packet of jelly powder in an imperial pint of boiling water, pour into the mould, and set away to cool.

Jelly powder can be procured in a great variety of fruit flavors—raspberry, strawberry, lemon, orange, cherry, pineapple, vanilla, etc., all in the natural colors. Some jelly powders are open to the charge of producing jellies that are sticky and tough, because the materials used in their manufacture are not perfectly pure. However, when a strictly first-class variety is used—like Blue Ribbon, for instance—results are all that can be desired, and the best kinds cost no more than the poorest.

For decorating the Christmas table, or for table decoration at any time, a simple plan is to get the jelly powder in various colors, as lemon, orange, cherry and pistachio (natural green). By using fancy molds the effect is extremely pleasing, but plain molds can be used if desired.

A Christmas Cake.

Cream three-quarters of a cupful of butter, and add a cupful and a half of sugar and three-quarters of a cupful of milk, alternately with three cupfuls of flour and four level teaspoonfuls of



baking powder, sifted together. Flavor, and stir in the beaten whites of five eggs. Bake for fifty minutes. When cold, ice thickly and decorate with nuts, small red candles and holly.

Never handcuff opportunity.

Miniota

The District and its
Business Men.

To those who are willing to submit to the Divine declaration, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," Manitoba and the Northwest Territories of Canada offer to-day larger returns for that honest sweat than any other section of the globe. Last year in the Province of Manitoba alone 2,089,940 acres in wheat produced 53,077,267 bushels, or an average of 26.1 to the acre. It should be borne in mind that this remarkable average included some very slovenly farming by men whose only knowledge of agriculture was that of hearsay while delving in the coal mines of Wales, serving out groceries and drapery in the stores of London or fishing on the banks of Newfoundland. In cases where experienced farmers have subjected the soil to a high state of cultivation a yield of 50 bushels of wheat and 90 to 100 bushels of oats have been obtained. The small yield of oats, flax and barley sometimes reported is to be accounted for by the fact that these cereals are sown late in the season when too late for any other crop.

THE MINIOTA DISTRICT.

The thriving and fast growing town of Miniota is situated at the terminus of the Miniota branch of the Canadian Pacific railway at a point 204 miles in

a northwesterly direction from the city of Winnipeg, the capital of the Province of Manitoba. The town site is one of the best in Western Canada, situated as it is high up on the banks of the Little Saskatchewan river, absolutely safe from any dangers of

one of the best and most successful mixed farming districts in Western Canada. This magazine could be filled from cover to cover with names of men who came to the district poor, but who have by industry and perseverance raised themselves to a position of comfort. Many of them may in fact be considered wealthy. Men who came here in the early eighties, who their neighbors thought would become a charge upon the country, are now in independent positions. Their change of fortune is to be attributed to their sterling grit, as well as to the extraordinary fertility of the soil.



MR. AND MRS. H. TURNER.

Early and prosperous settlers in Manitoba. Mrs. Turner was the first white girl to settle in the Birtle district.

flood, and possessing the most perfect natural drainage that it is possible for any town to have. The streets of the town are wide and well kept and a liberal mileage of sidewalks have been constructed. Miniota is the centre of

FAILURE UNKNOWN.
Ne'er do wells will never do well anywhere, but during an experience of 19 years in Western Canada the writer has not come across a single farmer who was mentally willing and phys-

F. S. Booth

FURNITURE
and
UNDERTAKING.

PICTURE FRAMING
and
UPHOLSTERING.

ORGANS and
SEWING MACHINES.

WALL PAPER
and
WINDOW SHADES.

Miniota & Manitoba

ally able who has not made a success of farming. Upon the other hand dozens of instances could be given of men who could barely secure bread and cheese in the old land who have even by a very rough system made wonderful progress in this country, while men who are practical farmers grow rich. There are scores of men in the district who started operations 20 years ago with a capital of \$200 or less, who are today in position to retire had they any desire so to do. To succeed in this favored district has been the rule. Young men who came here a few years ago and hired with farmers have now farms of their own and are making very rapid progress.

THE TOWN OF MINIOTA.

The town of Miniota was founded upon the completion of what was called the Hamiota extension of the Canadian Pacific railway in 1899. No better evidence can be adduced of the rapid growth of the town than the following list of new buildings that have been erected during the present season:

- D. Gerrand, new business block.
- Ross & Howard, elevator of 30,000 bushels capacity.
- J. Antcliffe, extension to his hotel.
- Andrew McLeod, hotel.
- A. Ross, new residence.
- Presbyterian church completed.
- Samuel Cusac, a stone residence.
- Robert Andrew, a large livery stable, one of the best west of Minnedosa.

A. C. McLEOD

Wedding *CAKES* a Specialty

PROPRIETOR OF

MINIOTA BAKERY



Fruits, Confectionery, Cigars, &c

MINIOTA, MANITOBA

A. ROSS & CO'Y

DEALERS IN

Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots and Shoes,
Hardware, Tinware, Graniteware,
Groceries, Crockery, China,
Glassware, Etc., Etc.

HIGHEST MARKET PRICE PAID FOR PRODUCE.

MINIOTA



MANITOBA



Robert Andrew, residence.
James Boyce, handsome brick residence.

THE MUNICIPALITY.

The Municipality of Miniota was organized in the early days of 1882.. The present council consists of W. Maddock Taylor, reeve; W. J. Sparling, Chas. Spencer, John Clark, J. C. Cameron, Jas. Murray, Geo. Cole.
Mr. Wm. Howard has been clerk of the municipality since 1886, and Mr. D. Gerrand is the treasurer.

ELEVATOR CAPACITY.

The elevator capacity of the town consists of the following:

	Bushels.
Ross & Howard	30,000
Imperial Elevator Co.	27,000
Lake of the Woods Mfg. Co.	20,000
Winnipeg Elevator Co.	20,000
Total	97,000

There is besides a loading platform from which farmers load direct to the cars from their granaries, and very often from their fields. During the



T. P. HODNETT,
Of Fraser & Hodnett, Implement Dealers,
Miniota, Man.

writer's visit to the town a threshing outfit was in operation in a field near by, and the wheat was being teamed direct to a car on the siding.
The average crop during this year throughout the district was estimated by some of the oldest and most reliable settlers of the district as thirty bushels to the acre. This may be regarded as a wonderful yield in what is considered an off year in the province.

RELIGIONS.

The Presbyterians and Methodists have neat churches in the town. Rev. Mr. English is pastor of the former and Rev. Mr. Smith of the latter. Rev. J. W. Hall conducts the English church services at present in the Methodist church.



GENERAL STORE OF A. ROSS & CO., MINIOTA, MAN.

EDUCATIONAL.

The public school trustees consist of David Gerrand, chairman; David Rowan, Robt. Lang. The last named is secretary-treasurer. Miss Hodnett is principal of the Miniota school. There are besides schools at convenient points throughout the municipality. Religious services are held in these schools throughout the country by the various denominations, and very pleasant socials are also held during the winter.

THE SOIL.

The soil of the district generally is a black sandy loam, rich in the qualities that nourish the wheat plant. The subsoil is of clay. This is also considered favorable to the cultivation of wheat, inasmuch as it retains the frost of winter until thawed and drawn to the surface by the hot rays of the summer sun to nourish the young wheat plant. It treats the summer rains in the same manner.

The following analysis of the soil of Manitoba will be of interest to home seekers:

Analytical Laboratory, Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh.

Moisture	21.364
Organic matter containing nitrogen equal to 23	11,223
Phosphates	0.472
Carbonate of lime	1.763
Carbonate of magnesia.	0.937
Alkaline salts.	1.273
Oxide of iron	3.115-7.560
Silicious matter—	
Sand and silica	5.721
Alumina	8.132-59.853
	100,000

The above soil is very rich in organic matter, and contains the full amount of saline fertilizing matters found in all soils of a good bearing quality.

(Signed)

STEPHEN MACADAM, M.D.,
Lecturer on Chemistry, etc.

CATTLE.

The raising of cattle has been a very profitable industry in the district and a large number are being annually shipped. The industry is capable of an almost unlimited expansion. The thousands of new settlers pouring into Western Canada from all parts of the world will purchase all the spare cattle the settlers may have to dispose of, and it is only a matter of time before a large meat canning factory will be established in Winnipeg. This will consume a large number of cattle, sheep and poultry.

DAIRYING.

The Miniota district is an ideal dairying one, there being an unlimited supply of sweet and nutritious grasses, pure and sparkling water. Samples of butter made in the district submitted to the inspection of the writer would compare favorably with any dairy butter made in the world. It was equal to the best product of the famous Welsh, Devonshire, Irish or Danish dairies. There is a good living in this



Branch at
**Arrow River,
Man.**

where, in addition to the below mentioned goods, a full line of
**HARDWARE and
FLOUR and FEED**
is carried in stock.

W. L. Hodnett

DEALER IN

**Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes,
Crockery, Gents' Furnishings, Hats,
Caps, Ready-made and Order-
made Clothing, Stationery,
Patent Medicines, Fruits
in Season, &c., &c.**

Miniota Manitoaba

*Miniota
Hotel*

H. TURNER - PROPRIETOR

Offers
First-class
Accommodation
to the
Travelling
Public.

Miniota, Manitoba



IMPLEMENT WAREHOUSES OF S. HUNTER & Co., MINIOTA, MAN.

district for anyone who undertakes the making of butter, the British Columbia mining district furnishing a good market, and willing to pay a high price for all the good butter that can be sent there.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Assiniboine River and a number of small lakes and ponds furnishes water for cattle and horses. Water for domestic purposes, of excellent quality is found at a depth of from 20 to 30 feet. There are also a number of overflowing springs along the banks of the Assiniboine River, while in the northwest end of the municipality there is a splendid sheet of water called Hoopers' Lake.

SPORTING.

The district provides excellent sport for those who are fond of going a-gunning. Ducks of all kinds are found in the sloughs, ponds and lakes, wild geese on the stubble, prairie chickens everywhere and deer in the Assiniboine Valley.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

The Farmer's Institute is a flourishing institution in the municipality. The principal officers are J. T. Lynch, president; John Fleming, Jr., secretary-treasurer. The members derive considerable benefit from this organization.

The Leading Business Men.

FRASER & HODNETT.

The firm of Fraser & Hodnett, consisting of D. J. Fraser and T. P. Hodnett, was formed last spring. Mr. Fraser started business in 1900. The firm deal in all kinds of farm imple-

ments and machinery, including the famous Frost & Wood machines. Mr. Fraser of this firm came to Manitoba in the year 1882 from Halton, Ont. He was engaged in farming for 17 years and made considerable success of the art of tilling the soil. He still carries on the farm in partnership with a brother. The property consists of 320 acres of land, 130 acres of which was in crop this year. Wheat gave a yield of 25 bus. to the acre, while oats yielded 60 bus. to the acre.

Mr. Hodnett of this firm is practically a Manitoban, having accompanied his parents from Lindsay, Ont., in the year 1882 when but a small boy.

W. L. HODNETT, GENERAL STORE.

Mr. Hodnett's general store business was established in the year 1902. The proprietor previously carried on business at Holmfild, Man., for three years. A full line of general merchandise is carried in stock, including dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, groceries, glass, china, crockery, etc. Mr. Hodnett has a branch store at Arrow River, where in addition to the lines enumerated above a full line of hardware and flour and feed is carried in stock.

D. GERRAND, HARDWARE.

Mr. Gerrand started business in the town in 1901. He carries a full stock of heavy and shelf hardware, including the products of the best manufactories of Canada, Great Britain, the United States and the Continent of Europe. Mr. Gerrand has now nearly completed a fine business block with a stone basement. The upper story is to be finished as a music hall with a large stage and dressing rooms. Mr. Gerrand

came to the district in the year 1882. He carried on successful farming operations for 19 years. He still owns 960 acres of land which he rents. He informed the writer that the Miniota district is one of the most remunerative mixed farming districts in the world. Mr. Gerrand is chairman of the Public School Board. He was a member of the municipal council for three years and is now treasurer of the municipality. Mr. Gerrand came to this district from Guelph, Ont., in 1882, and to Canada from Scotland in 1870.

A. ROSS & Co., GENERAL STORE.

The firm of A. Ross & Co. started business in the town in the year 1900. Mr. Ross was formerly a clerk in the employ of John Stewart, the pioneer merchant of the town. Mr. Stewart sold out to Mr. Ross previous to leaving for British Columbia. A. Ross & Co. carry a complete line of general dry goods, ready made clothing, boots and shoes, groceries, crockery, hardware, etc. Mr. Ross has a handsome concrete residence surrounded by a handsome young grove of maple, cotton wood and Russian poplar shade trees.

ROBERT ANDREW, LIVERY STABLE.

Mr. Andrew conducts one of the best livery, feed and sale stables in northwestern Manitoba. He started business in the year 1901. He erected this year a big addition to his stable, making it one of the most commodious in the district west of Minnedosa. It is equipped with good horses and all kinds of single and double rigs, demerats, etc. Mr. Andrew also runs a stage three days per week each way between Miniota, Beulah and Birtle,

carrying the royal mail. He also does the draying of the town. He has also a 480 acre farm, which he rents on shares. He employs the most expert and careful drivers and pays special attention to the commercial trade, promptly attending to all telegraphic orders.

MINIOTA HOTEL.

Although the Miniota hotel is not as pretentious a hostelry as is to be found in many of the western towns, yet the tired traveller finds rest and comfort there. The proprietor, Mr. H. Turner, is an ideal hotel keeper, and studies well the comfort of his patrons. He came to Manitoba in the early days of 1879 from London, Ont., and originally from England. He was the first man to build a house in what is now the town of Birtle, and Mrs. Turner was the first white girl to settle in the Birtle district. Mr. Turner, not finding farming congenial to his taste, removed to Miniota and opened an hotel upon the completion of the extension of the Northwest Central railway.

F. S. BOOTH, FURNITURE.

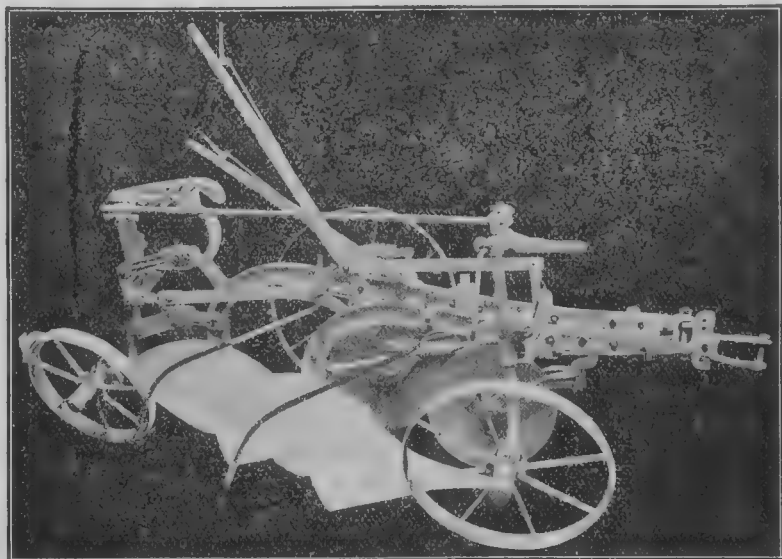
Mr. Booth erected a store in the town and commenced business in the year 1900. He carries a full line of general furniture and does undertaking upholstery, picture framing, etc. He is agent for the New Goderich and Eldridge sewing machines, Doherty organs, etc.

S. HUNTER & Co., IMPLEMENTS.

Mr. Hunter came to the district in the year 1900 and erected one of the first business premises in the town. He started business in partnership with Mr. Edward Stout, under the style of Hunter & Stout. He bought out Mr.



GENERAL STORE OF W. L. HODNETT, MINIOTA, MAN.



ROCK ISLAND "HIGH LOW" GANG.

Containing the main features of the celebrated Rock Island Low Lift Gang, and the Columbia High Lift Gang. Just the thing for Western work.

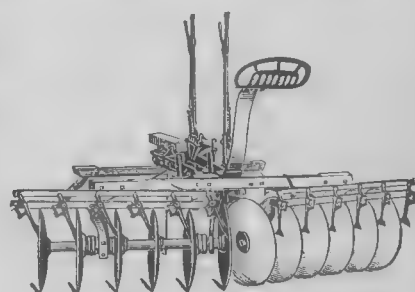
FRASER & HODNETT

DEALERS IN
**AGRICULTURAL
IMPLEMENTS**

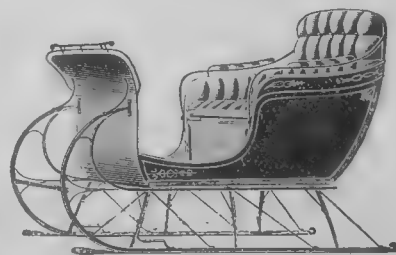
INCLUDING THE CELEBRATED

Frost & Wood Binders, Mowers, Rakes, Disc Harrows and Drills. The Rock Island Plows. Armstrong Buggies, Wagons, Sleighs, Cutters, Etc. :: :: ::

MINIOTA, MANITOBA



FROST & WOOD SEED DRILL.



UP-TO-DATE CUTTERS.

Stout's interests in 1902. The firm carry a full line of the best farm implements and machinery, including the famous McCormick harvesting machinery, John Deere plows, Sylvester seeders, Canada Carriage Co.'s buggies, American-Abell threshing machinery, Melotte cream separators, cutters, sleighs, etc. Mr. Hunter has

THE SWINE INDUSTRY.

The vision to the Apostle Peter is taken generally by Christians as a suspension or withdrawal of the edict issued through the great statesman and sanitarian Moses against the eating of pork and as long as this idea prevails there will be a steady demand for hog products. Some attention has already been paid to this industry in the district, but there is yet room for considerable expansion. The possibility of pork becoming a drug in the eastern market is very remote. Notwithstanding the fact that Manitoba and the Northwest Territories are the best grain-growing countries in the world and that hogs can be raised more profitably here than in any other part, yet thousands of dollars are sent out of the country every year for pork, bacon, hams and lard. Not only

should every dollar of this be retained in the country, but there should be a large surplus for export. It takes about five million pounds of pork and hog product to supply the market of the Northwest Territories. It is up to the farmers of the Province of Manitoba and of the Territories to supply this amount, and thereby enrich themselves and add to the wealth of the west. The most experienced farmers unite in declaring that the raising of hogs is the most important and paying

torical rush of 1882 from Walkerton, Ont. He had a small capital with which to start operations in the new country. For the first few years he was content with a yoke of oxen. He has now 800 acres of excellent land, a number of horses, about 80 head of cattle, good farm buildings and modern machinery.

Mr. Howard, clerk of the municipality of Miniota, came to the district in the year 1882. He is a native of the famous County of Tipperary in the



TAKEN ON BIRD TAIL RESERVE.

a very neat concrete residence surrounded by maple shade trees. He is a commissioner in B.R., vice-president of Virden district Liberal Association.



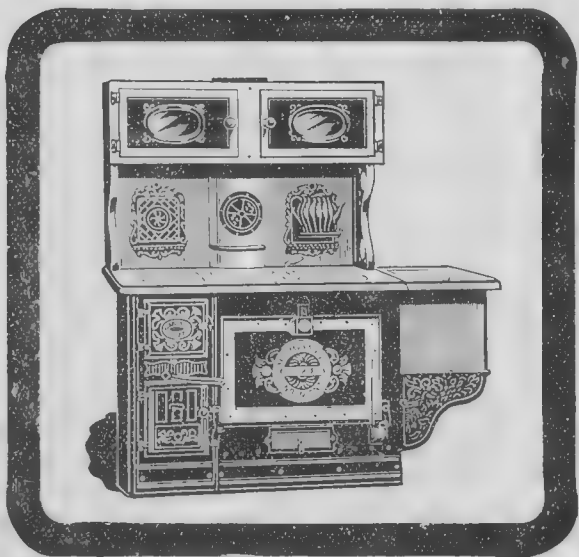
"ON TOP."

A Scene on the Banks of the Assiniboine River, near Miniota, Man.

D. Gerrand

DEALER IN

Shelf and Heavy Hardware
Tinware and Graniteware
Paints, Oils and Glass



McCLARY'S FAMOUS STOVES AND RANGES

as well as other leading makes

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINTS

Expert Tinsmiths employed, and special attention paid to Furnace Work and Roofing. Threshers' Supplies.
A full line of Guns, Winchester Rifles and Ammunition. Blacksmith Coal.
Galt Coal, Etc., Etc.

MINIOTA, MANITOBA

venture they can engage in. It has been demonstrated that rejected wheat will, by being judiciously fed to hogs, realize to the farmer 60 cents per bushel, while wheat that is being sold at sixty cents per bushel will by being fed to hogs net the farmer ninety cents per bushel. Farmers who understand the curing of bacon and hams can add farther still to their profits. Home cured bacon and hams sell at several cents per pound higher in England than that cured at the regular establishments. The farmers of Manitoba can establish a reputation for choice home cured meats that will be worth a fortune to them. It would be a good move for the agricultural society to secure the services of a few experts in the curing of bacon to instruct those farmers who have not at present a sufficient knowledge of the business. Such a move would result in increased prosperity and commerce for the district and would assist in making the town of much greater importance. Bacon and hams cured in Chicago sell at a higher price in the Winnipeg stores than the home cured article. This should not be so, and it is the duty of Manitobans to see that the existing conditions do not long continue.

Some of the Successful Farmers.

Space will only permit of naming a few of the successful and prosperous farmers that reside in the district.

Mr. Donald McKenzie resides on his farm, six miles east of the town. He came to the district with the his-

torical rush of 1882 from Walkerton, Ont. He had a small capital with which to start operations in the new country. For the first few years he was content with a yoke of oxen. He has now 800 acres of excellent land, a number of horses, about 80 head of cattle, good farm buildings and modern machinery.

Mr. Howard, clerk of the municipality of Miniota, came to the district in the year 1882. He is a native of the famous County of Tipperary in the

When writing to Advertisers

please mention

THE WESTERN HOME
MONTHLY.

prosperous settlers in the district. He now owns 1280 acres of excellent land. Two hundred and fifty acres of this was in crop this year. Wheat averaged 35 bushels to the acre, oats 60 bushels to the acre, barley 40 bushels to the acre. Mr. Howard is engaged in mixed farming. He has 65 head of cattle and 12 horses, good frame residence, a barn 30 x 90 feet in dimensions with a stone basement. The farm is equipped with a most complete set of modern machinery. The general appearance of the whole conveys the impression that it is the home of a



MINIOTA HOTEL, MINIOTA, MAN.

wealthy, prosperous and contented settler. Mr. Howard has been clerk of the municipality since 1882.

In 1900 he extended his operations by joining Mr. Jacob B. Ross in the lumber business in the town.

The firm of Ross & Howard also deal extensively in grain. They have built this year a 30,000 bushel elevator at Miniota and a 27,000 bushel elevator at Arrow River.

Jeremiah Leland resides on his farm three miles east of the town. He came here in 1882 from Ontario. He started without any capital, but is now numbered among the prosperous settlers of the district. He has 320 acres of land, a substantial and comfortable concrete residence, good outbuildings, 30 head of cattle and 10 horses.

The Powell farm is a splendid property.

Fraser Bros., consisting of the three brothers, Jas. A., Harry and Victor, reside in the Beulah district, seven miles north of the town. They have a large farm, good buildings, including a stone granary and a modern barn equipped with a wind mill. Visitors to the country should visit this model town.

John Reynold's farm is three miles northwest of the town. He came here in 1881 from Chatham, Ont., and has 480 acres of land with substantial buildings, including a stone residence, and a large frame barn equipped with a wind mill. He has a large number of live stock and a complete set of modern machinery.

Date Cake.

A cupful and a half of sugar, half cupful of butter, 2 cups flour, a cupful of milk, the yolks of 4 eggs, 2 teaspoonfuls of baking powder, a teaspoonful of almond extract and 1 lb. dates chopped fine.

Cream the butter and sugar, add yolks, beat and add milk, sifted flour, and lastly the fruit and flavoring. Bake in thin sheets, ice each sheet thickly and cover with stoned dates. Serve cut in squares.

Warts can be removed by applications of lunar caustic. Be careful when making the application not to touch the skin around the wart.

Never go to bed with cold or damp feet. Never omit regular bathing, for unless the skin is in active condition the cold will close the pores and favor congestion and other diseases.

How to Make Good Coffee.

Coffees after they pass the fire and become roasted contain nothing injurious except what will be brought out by hard boiling more than five minutes, says Food and Drink.

All anyone in making coffee wishes to extract from the ground bean is the essential oil, which mingling with the boiling water produces the so-called coffee used at the table. By hard boiling you go farther and extract what you do not wish, the acid or alkaloid, which nature placed there to protect the germ from the ravages of insects during the process of reproduction. It is a well-known scientific fact that nature surrounds the germ of any seed with acids or alkaloids to protect it from insects or worms during the time which it is placed in the ground to reproduce or germinate again, and when by misuse you bring these down into your solution, you find the result bitter and unpalatable and condemn the coffee. Then also poor, aged cream will spoil any cup of coffee. The majority, in fact all, coffees are more or less acid, and combined with cream of course are very palatable, but let anyone who is under the impression that coffee is injurious to their system educate their taste to "cafe noir" or clear coffee, and they will find it just what it is guaranteed to be, a light stimulant and decidedly not a detriment to any system, no matter how delicate. Combine the acid coffee with poor semi-sour cream and of course it curdles in the stomach and will produce harmful results.

Christmas Table Decorations.

The prettiest of Christmas dinner-table decorations is a basket filled with holly and tied with broad scarlet ribbon. In the bow of ribbon arrange daintily some sprigs of mistletoe. This may be placed on a mirror or on a white embroidered centrepiece. If mistletoe alone is used tie it with green ribbon, using holly berries in the bow of the ribbon, and stand the basket on a square of scarlet satin edged with overlapping leaves of holly.

If baked potatoes are pricked with a knife a few moments before they are done steam will escape and leave them more mealy.

To obtain onion juice press the cut side of half an onion against a grater and move it slowly. The juice will run off the corner of the grater.

If a lamp should be overturned don't attempt to put out the flame with sky, for it will simply spread it. Instead throw down flour, sand, garden earth or salt, either of which will have the desired effect.

To keep cider sweet add one and one-half cupfuls of grated horseradish to each barrel of cider. This is done when the cider has reached the desired stage, and which has been thoroughly racked off.

A very effective remedy for a cough caused by a tickling in the throat is made by adding to the beaten white of an egg the juice of a lemon, and then thicken with sugar.

Christmas in Other Lands.

ENGLAND.

The first English child to enjoy a Christmas tree was Mary, daughter of Henry VIII., who was afterward known as Bloody Mary. When she was four years old a rosemary bush, hung with red jewels and silver spangles, and lighted with rushlights, was set up in the great hall of the castle, for the amusement of the little maiden who became such a cruel Queen. From this little rosemary bush the custom spread until now no English Christmas is complete without the Christmas tree.

GERMANY.

In Germany the children believe that



STORE OF D. GERRAND, MINIOTA, MAN.

William Evans, who resides three and a half miles east of the town, is another who came to the district from Georgetown, Ont. He has now 480 acres of land, good buildings, 30 head of cattle and 12 horses.

John Powell, who lives four miles north of the town, came here in 1882 from Ontario. He started with practically nothing, whereas now he owns 960 acres, 65 head of cattle, 16 horses.



RESIDENCE OF A. ROSS, MINIOTA, MAN.

the glittering tree with its bright baubles is the gift of the Christ child—Criss Kindlein, or Kriss Kringle, who visits the earth on Christmas eve and drops down the chimneys gifts for the good and obedient. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of Russia, and it is interesting to note that this jolly personage was not legendary, but was a real man and lived about 300 A.D.

NORWAY.

Many characteristic customs prevail at Christmas in different parts of Europe, but nowhere is there a prettier one than that obtaining in the west coast town of Christiansand in Norway. There, at the stroke of seven on Jule-afen, the waiting city hears from its cathedral spire the first notes of the Christmas chimes. Then every house door opens, and the people, in awed silence, go out into the streets to listen to the music of the bells. After these



HOME OF R. R. CHEW, RAVENWOOD, MAN.

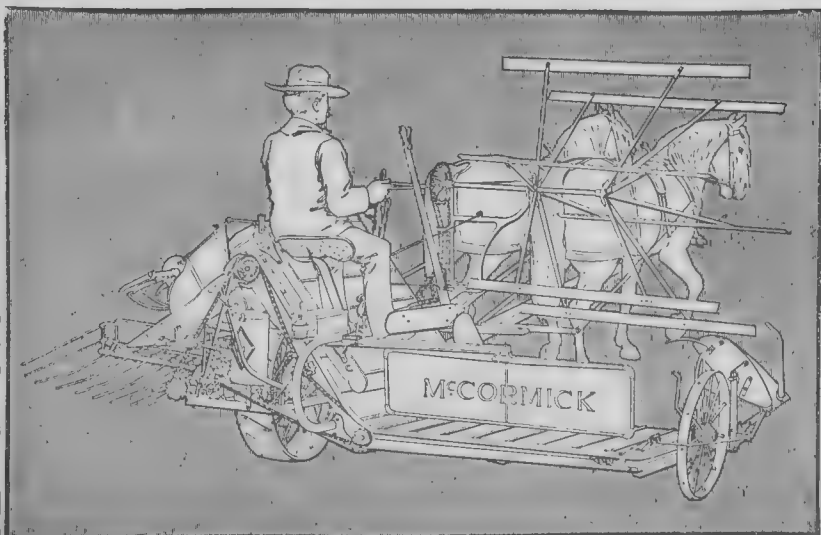
sweet sounds there is a pause, while the crowds stand quiet under the starlit sky, waiting for something, the touching effect of which can be appreciated only by one who knows the strong emotional influences of the place and time. This is the playing of the three Christmas hymns, by wind-instruments from the high church tower. As the notes ring out into the night many an upturned face shines with unconscious tears, while impulsively hand goes out to hand.

The Pilgrim Fathers, who condemned all church festivals, spent their first Christmas in America working hard all day long, amid cold and stormy weather, and commenced the building of the first house in Plymouth, 1620.

S. Hunter & Co.

DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF

FARM IMPLEMENTS and MACHINERY



INCLUDING

The Famous McCormick Harvesting Machinery, The John Deere Plows, Sylvester Seeders, Canada Carriage Co. Buggies, American, Abell Threshing Machinery, Melotte Cream Separators, Cutters and Sleighs, Etc., Etc., Etc.

MINIOTA

MANITOBA

Oh, Christmas is a jolly time
When forests hang with snow,
And other forests bend with toys,
And lordly Yule-logs glow.

And Christmas is a solemn time
Because, beneath the star,
The first great Christmas was given
To all men near and far.

But not alone at Christmas time
Comes holiday and cheer,
For one who loves a little child
Hath Christmas all the year.

—Florence Evelyn Pratt.

The Babies.

"Good-night," said the tender mother.
"God bless my babies sweet,"
And she kissed the rosy dimples
In the darling hands and feet;
And she kissed the yellow ringlets
Where the light lay in soft gleams;
"May the angels come," she whispered,
"And play with you in dreams."
Soft arms were thrown around her,—
Soft kisses were returned,—
Cured were the day's small sorrows;
Love in the young hearts burned.



LIVERY STABLES OF R. ANDREW, MINIOTA, MAN.

Christmas Day Events.

Christmas was first celebrated in the year 98, but it was forty years before it was officially adopted as a Christian festival; nor was it until about the fifth century that the day of its celebration became permanently fixed on the 25th of December. Up to that time it had been irregularly observed at various times in the year—in December, in April, and in May, but most frequently in January.

Clovis, the first Christian King of France, was baptized on Christmas Day, 496.

Gilles de Retz, of France, the original "Bluebeard," was executed on Christmas Day, 1440, in atonement for a multitude of crimes, which included the killing of six wives, from which the popular nursery story is derived.

In history Christmas has been a very remarkable day. It was on Christmas Day that Charlemagne was crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in the Cathedral at Aix-la-Chapelle.

It is a significant fact that no great battles were fought on Christmas Day. They have occurred on the 24th and 26th of December, but the anniversary of the advent of Peace on Earth has ever been observed by a cessation of hostilities.

On Christmas Day, in the year 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey.

For Queen Victoria Christmas was a fateful day. It was on Christmas morning in 1838 that her engagement to Prince Albert was announced. It was to spend Christmas at Osborne as a heart-broken widow that she went 23 years later.

Whatever the childish errors,
They were forgotten, forgiven,
As the mother gave her darlings
Anew to the care of heaven.
Sweet is the sleep of the children
Who are cradled in loving dreams;
To newness of life they waken
With the beauteous morning beams;
In their cheeks glow the dawn's red roses;
And their thoughts, like the early songs

That ring from the dew-wet branches,
Are free from regrets and wrongs.

—Mary F. Butts.

On that Christmas night God honored motherhood. The angels on their wings might have brought an infant Saviour to Bethlehem without Mary's being there at all. But, no; motherhood for all time was to be consecrated, and one of the tenderest relations was to be the maternal relation, and one of the sweetest words, "mother." In all ages God has honored good motherhood. In a great audience, most of whom were Christians, I asked that all those who had been blessed with Christian mothers arise, and almost the entire assembly stood up. Don't you see how important it is that all motherhood be consecrated?—Talmage, in Sunday School Journal.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in—
Be born in us to-day.

—Phillips Brooks.

Oak River District

The prosperous town of Oak River is situated on the Miniota branch of the Canadian Pacific railway at a point 176 miles northwest of the city of Winnipeg. It is the centre of a very rich mixed farming district, a district that has produced in this off-year in the history of the province a remarkable crop of cereals, and a district that is inhabited by a very progressive, prosperous and contented people.

The town of Oak River, in common with most of the towns of Western Canada, is making very substantial progress.

ELEVATOR CAPACITY.

The elevator capacity of the town consists of the following:

	Bushels.
Export Elevator Co.	25,000
Northern Elevator Co.	22,000
Winnipeg Elevator Co.	22,000
Ogilvie Mills Co.	30,000
Dominion Elevator Co.	30,000
Total	129,000

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

There is a thriving agricultural society in the district. D. S. Black is president and Thos. Kidd secretary.

HESS & COCHRAN, GENERAL MERCHANTS.

The enterprising firm of Hess & Cochran consists of Samuel Hess and R. C. Cochran. The partnership was formed in the year 1891, just before the completion of what was then the Great Northwest Central railway. The firm carry a complete assortment of general merchandise, a stock that will compare very favorably with that to be found in the larger towns and cities of the province. It includes dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, groceries, crockery, etc. Mr. Cochran of this firm has been reeve of the municipality of Blanshard (which includes Oak River) for four consecutive years. He

is also president of the Conservative Association, a commissioner in B.R. and issuer of marriage licenses.

S. J. KIRK, M.D.

Dr. Kirk is a graduate of the Manitoba Medical College of the year 1898. He commenced practice in the town in the same year. He is a very successful practitioner and also keeps



D. S. BLACK,
President of the Oak River Agricultural Society.

a drug store with a full line of drugs, druggists' supplies, patent medicines, etc. He also owns a 320 acre farm near town. One hundred acres of this farm was in crop this year. Dr. Kirk speaks very highly of the agricultural qualities of the district.

OSBORNE HOUSE.

The new solid stone and brick hostelry now completed is known as the Osborne House. The building is a very handsome and commodious one and would do credit to any of the larger towns or cities of the province. The proprietors, Thomson Bros., are to be congratulated upon their enterprise and

Osborne House

Oak River, Manitoba.

One of the Best

built and best equipped hotels in the province—offers first-class accommodation to the travelling public. Large commodious sample rooms for commercial travellers. The bar is stocked with the best brands of wines, liquors and cigars.



Thomson Bros.,
Proprietors.



HESS & COCHRAN'S STORE, OAK RIVER, MAN.

upon their faith in the future of the town and district. The building is a three story one with full basement. It will be equipped with all the modern conveniences possible in a country town. The Thomson Bros. have been in the town for several years and thoroughly understand the hotel business. The travelling public will therefore welcome the completion of the new hotel where they will be sure to secure the very best that is going. Mr. C. B. Thomson of this firm does not confine himself to the hotel business. He has a 480 acre farm two miles southeast of the town which he rents on shares. Three hundred acres of this farm was in crop this year. The general average yield of wheat per acre was 35 bushels, although one field, brought under a high state of cultivation, yielded 50 bushels of wheat to the acre. Oats averaged 70 bushels to the acre. Mr. C. B. Thomson carries on an implement business in partnership with Mr. A. Rowat, under the style of Thomson & Rowat.

D. S. BLACK.

D. S. Black, president of the Oak River Agricultural Society, resides on his farm, four miles southwest of the town. He is one of the pioneers of the district and has a splendid farm of 640 acres.

G. C. PINHORN.

Mr. Pinhorn, president of the Grain Growers' Association of the district, resides on his farm five miles southwest of the town. He is a son of a Church of England clergyman. He came to the district about eight years ago and hired with a farmer while he gained sufficient experience to launch out for himself. He is a very successful farmer, has a large well equipped farm, with several thoroughbred Clydesdale horses, which are prize winners.

HERBERT SMITH.

Mr. Smith is a resident of the district, his farm being six miles southeast of the town. He came here in 1882 with his parents. He started out for himself in 1891 and now owns 640 acres of excellent land. One hundred



METHODIST.



PRESBYTERIAN.



EPISCOPAL.

Churches of Oak River, Man.

and forty acres of this was in crop this year. Wheat averaged 27 bushels to the acre, and oats 60 bushels to the acre. The live stock on this farm consists of 16 head of cattle and 10 horses.

F. C. SPARLING

Has a well equipped livery, feed and sale stable in the town and has half interest in a 480 acre farm in the neighborhood. Two hundred acres of this farm was in crop this year. It produced an average of 26 bushels of wheat and 60 bushels of oats to the acre. Mr. Sparling also owns the Cleveland bay entire horse Reg. No. 1157, coach class.

GEORGE MCINTOSH.

Mr. McIntosh resides on his farm southwest of the town. He came to the district in 1879 from Perth, Ont., and, after undergoing the usual hard experiences of pioneer life, found his feet and prospered. He is engaged in mixed farming and has made a success of every branch. He owns 1,120 acres of land, 400 acres of which were in crop last year. He secured the good yield of 37 bushels to the acre, one field of ten acres produced 470 bushels, or an average of 47 bushels. This field was, of course, thoroughly cultivated and manured. The live stock on the McIntosh farm consists of 80 head of cattle, 22 horses and a herd of swine. Mr. McIntosh is a strong advocate of

mixed farming and maintains that not a single blade of straw should be burned, but that all should be fed to cattle, used as bedding and the surplus if any, placed on muddy roads and when well rotted, returned to fertilize the soil. Such a doctrine reduced to practice accounts for the phenomenal yields that he has secured. Mr. McIntosh has also rendered the province valiant service by taking into his employ tender handed young Englishmen and converting them into successful and practical Western farmers. He strongly believes in encouraging the immigration of his class and claims that an educated Englishman, though he has never seen a farm, will make a successful farmer in time, if shown how at the outset.

—GOO—

Our Life.

First we eat an' next we eat an' next we eat an' then
We go to bed an' git right up an' start to eat again.
One half our life we eat and sleep an' I'm a tellin' you
'At them's about the slickest things we mortals have to do.
Fer eaten' ain't no work at all an' sleepin's better yet,
An' once we're cuddled up in bed we feel just right, you bet!
An' when the mornin' comes we try to figger out some ruse,
In that warm bed, to turn jist once an' take another snooze.
It's work a feedin' growin' boys; they never git enough
An' eat most anythin' that comes an' never call it tough,
Dispepsy's suthin' they don't have—no trouble on that score—
They eat an apple, skins an' all an' never leave no core.
You'll never git 'em off to bed while they can keep awake;
An' when there's suthin' goin' on don't try for goodness sake;
You'll need yer strength to git 'em up; of course they won't refuse,
But say: "All right, we're gittin' up!" Then take another snooze.
A man'll sit up half the night an' nothin's ever said,
An' after that he'll read an' smoke afore he goes to bed;
But in the mornin' what a fuss at bein' called so soon;
He'd like to lie five minutes more; he'd like to sleep till noon.

A Western Romance.

Written for the Western Home Monthly by M. D. Hill, Wolseley.

CHAPTER I.



T'S no use; I'm sick of this baching business," said Fred Tiller, as he opened the door of his little shanty late one broiling July afternoon and cast a very discontented look around the untidy little room. He had been out working in the hay ever since his hasty breakfast at six o'clock that morning, and had only had some cold meat and bread at the stack for his dinner, with a drink of cold tea out of a

bottle he had taken with him; and now he had returned sooner than usual, to do up the chores, cook some slap-jacks, get his supper, and put things in readiness for a hard day's work on the morrow. He lighted his stove fire, put on the kettle, and started for the stable to feed the horses. He had brought home a load of hay with him, and now he proceeded to unharness them, throw off the hay, and chop more wood for his fire before having his supper. After the wood was cut he returned to find his kettle boiling and first making his tea he proceeded to make, and fry two immense flap-jacks, a kind of substantial pancake. Over his supper he took up a paper of short stories published in the states, and after finishing one tale his eye was caught by an advertisement on the next page.

"The very thing," he cried, slapping his knee with his open hand; "Why did I never think of it before?" The advertisement was headed, "Wanted a wife."

"Yes, I'll advertise at once. I'll not go on like this. There must be something in it, or there would never be all these in," looking at a long list of similar advertisements below the one he had just read.

Fred Tiller had left the old country about ten years before the date of our story. His father and mother were both dead and his only sister married.



ELEVATORS AT OAK RIVER, MAN.

HESS & COCHRAN

DEALERS IN

DRY GOODS

Boots and Shoes
Hats and Caps

GROCERIES

Crockery
Stationery, Etc.
Millinery and Patent
Medicines.

OAK RIVER MANITOBA



R. C. COCHRAN,
Reeve of the Municipality of Blanchard.

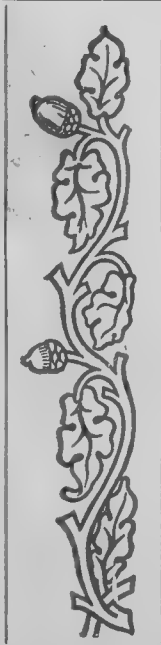
The little money he had in hand just sufficed to bring him out to Western Canada, and buy the things he required for the voyage. On arriving, he had hired out for four years, and at the end of that time had taken up his homestead, and now after six years hard work found himself at the age of twenty-eight the possessor of a little shanty containing one room up and one down, a sod stable, a team of good horses, four cows, two calves, a pig, and some poultry. He was a tolerably good looking young fellow, with a pair of merry brown eyes, a bronzed and sunburnt face. He was tall and strong, but had a slight limp, which, however, only showed slightly when he walked. After supper he cleared away, and after finishing all his chores for the night he sat down to write his advertisement, intending to take it with him to post on the following day when he would be at the town about twenty miles off, with hay to exchange for flour and groceries.

CHAPTER II.

In a quiet old farm house in Texas, U.S., sat a fair, pretty looking girl named Ellen Murray. Through the open window the soft summer breeze blew into the room, laden with the scent of roses and new mown hay. A

S. J. KIRK, M.D.

Physician
and Surgeon



A
Full
Stock
of
Pure
Drugs,
Druggist's
Sundries,
Patent
Medicines,
Toilet
Supplies,
Etc.

OAK RIVER - MANITOBA

little girl three years of age, the orphan child of a dead sister, played with the old dog about the floor. Suddenly a man's step was heard in the porch, and the farmer, Reuben Murray, entered the room.

"Now, Nelly, here's a chance for you," said he, laughing, as he tossed the paper to his sister, and picking up the little one he sat down with her upon his knee.

His sister took the paper and read the piece he pointed out to her.

"Wanted, by a young ranchman, a wife; no money required, but the young lady must be kind and affectionate, and a good housekeeper; age about twenty, fair preferred. Address F. T., Box 185, P.O., Maplewood, N.W.T., Canada."

"Well, Reuben, who'd have thought it. Still it sounds straightforward enough though. I've a good mind to answer it, if it's only for a bit of fun."

"There might be something in it, anyhow there's no one round here half good enough for my little sister," answered her brother.

"And when Patty and you are married in the fall, Rube, this home will be none too large for you, too; but I should like to have Alice with me wherever I am," answered Nelly, looking fondly at the child.

So the advertisement was answered and photos exchanged, and a correspondence kept up with a satisfactory result to both the parties concerned. In November, some three weeks after her brother's wedding, Ellen Murray took the cars for Maplewood, N.W.T., accompanied by her little niece, whom Fred Tiller had gladly agreed to receive and bring up like his own child as soon as Nelly had told him her wishes, and he had at once sent money to bring the two to his home. A friend of ours witnessed the meeting between the two when the young ranchman boarded the train in which his promised wife was travelling to her new home, and the way in which he took her in his arms and kissed her again and again bore witness to the warmth of his affection. They left the cars at Maplewood to proceed to the manse, where Ellen Murray was transformed by a few simple words into Ellen Tiller. Thence they took their departure in a buggy accompanied by little Alice for the nine miles drive to the little ranch where Ellen was to begin her new life. Best wishes for their happiness follow both of them.

Christmas Day.

When Christmas time is drawing near,
how good it is to see

The children hurrying around, as busy
as can be;

Their eyes are bright and sparkling, and
their actions seem to say,

There's something nice in store for us
—you'll know on Christmas Day.

There's counting up on nickels, and
much whispering on the sly,

And many little plans about the things
it's best to buy;

The trips to town come often and they
snugly hide away

The bargains that will surely make sur-
prises Christmas Day.

There's Abby Jane, the oldest girl, she
somehow seems to be

The secret-keeper for the crowd—the
children, ma and me;

And following her suggestions, it's not
too much to say,

The approval of proceedings is general
Christmas Day.

She's a thoughtful little daughter—she
knows what business means—

She looks just as her mother did when
she was in her teens;

She has my head for planing, and things
don't block her way,

For she can keep them moving all the
year to Christmas Day.

The house gets full of secrets; as I
wouldn't be unkind,

When Christmas time is drawing near,
I grow both deaf and blind;

I never see the slippers, that are quickly
hid away,

When they hear my footsteps coming,
till the morn of Christmas Day.

And I never hear the rustling and the
bustling on the stairs,
And I never see the little jerks and
queer mysterious airs;
But I know there's something budding
that will bloom out bright and gay,
With the merry, loving wishes that
come on Christmas Day.

We can't afford to leave the fun to them
alone—we try

To have some secrets of our own—my
little wife and I;

And as a purse, not over full, gets light,
we take our pay

In counting up the joy we'll bring to
others, Christmas Day.

We both believe in Santa Claus, just as
the young folks do;

We know our faith will help him come,
and not forget us too;

We always hang our stockings up just
where the children say,

And always find them bulging out with
presents Christmas Day.



THE OSBORNE HOUSE, OAK RIVER.

The Country.

Yes, it's lively in the city where they've
got their 'lectric lights,

And the people soon have wrinkles from
their stayin' out o' nights.

They've got shows and things to keep
'em from a-gettin' lonesome there,

And they look all-fired stylish in the
costly clo's they wear,

But I guess they have their troubles
just the same as me and you,

And I reckon that they're often rather
worse'n ours, too.

We've got wood piled in the woodshed
that'll last a year or so,

And there's more out where that come
from and more saplin's still to

grow;

We ain't worried over coal strikes, let
the cold winds blow away;

We can carry in the billets and not have
a cent to pay;

While they're shiverin' up yonder where
they've got so much to see

We can heat up fer the babies that the
Lord sent you and me.

There is always somethin' doin' to make
city people sad;

If it ain't a sausage famine, why, you'll
hear the water's bad;

When the strikers stop the street cars
then the dickens is to pay

And the people have to foot it, gettin'
clubbed along the way,

And the fever epidemics and the small-
pox every year

Keep the city people stewin', and I'm
glad to live out here.

Oh, it's quiet in the country and there's
few uncommon sights,

And God's moon and stars up yonder
have to do fer 'lectric lights,

But with 'taters in the cellar and with
wood piled in the shed,

When there's hay stacked in the hay-
mows for the stock that must be

fed,

They can have their noisy city, with the
sights up there to see,

And the kind old quiet country will be
good enough for me.

When writing advertisers mention Western
Home Monthly.

The Kitchen Floor.

There are a few rules to be followed in oiling kitchen floors. Use boiled linseed oil. It dries more readily than the raw oil and may be improved by adding a little turpentine, since the more highly polished a surface is the longer it will keep clean. Strong solutions of suds ruin any floor. Never use ammonia and strong soaps or lye. Never apply a scrubbing brush to an oiled floor. The kitchen floor may be easily cared for by sweeping carefully and wiping up with a mop dipped in a mild suds. The suds should be followed by mopping with clear water.

If the hair contains too much oil frequent washings in warm water in which a half teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda has been dissolved will make it less oily.

The wind blows cold and the sun is low,
And the sapphire sky has changed to grey;
But blithely, blithely over the snow
The children troop from the woodland way
Laden with holly and evergreen,
And the mistletoe peeps out between.
From many a church tower far and wide
The bells ring out with their merry chimes,
Telling glad tidings of Christmas-tide;
And the old folks dream of bygone times;
But the lads—Oh, the lads, they whisper low
As slyly they hang up the mistletoe.
Grandfather sits in his old armchair
Spreading cold hands to the cheerful blaze;
Dear grandmamma in her kerchief fair,
Remembers Christmas in her young days;
But the maidens smile and their soft cheeks
glow
As they linger under the mistletoe.

Subscribe for The Western Home Monthly.

MESSAGE TO THE OLD FOLKS.

Angus MacMillan Tells Them How his
Stomach Troubles Vanished when he
used Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets.

Many aged people to-day are having their declining years darkened by pains and aches and depression they wrongly charge up to their weight of years when, in fact, it is Dyspepsia that is troubling them. To these Angus MacMillan, of Laggan, Glengarry Co., Ont., sends the following message:

"I am over eighty years of age. I suffered with Dyspepsia for more than twenty years back and never met with anything to cure me till I commenced using Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets. After taking them for two days all pain and restlessness left me entirely. I continued taking them and was soon feeling like a new man."

Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets cure the stomach troubles of old and young alike. A few of them carried in your pocket and one or two taken after eating is a safeguard against all forms of Indigestion.

When writing advertisers mention Western
Home Monthly.

The City Brandon The District

A Prosperous and Important Centre.

The city of Brandon is situated on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 133 miles west of Winnipeg. Like Jerusalem, Brandon is a city built on a hill, namely, the south and gently rising banks of the Assiniboine river. The gradual raise in the land provides natural drainage of great value and contributes largely to making the city naturally the most healthy in the West.

The townsite of Brandon was laid out in the year 1881, whereupon the residents of Grand Valley, a town that had been established some two miles to the east made a stampede to the great railway centre. In the year 1882 Brandon was incorporated as a city. In common with Winnipeg and other important points it was struck with the big boom, and also the relapse caused by the bursting of the same. The census of 1890 only gave Brandon a population of 3,634. But the estimated population at the present time is between 7,000 and 10,000 souls. The growth and prosperity of this ambitious city is an index to the great development and prosperity of the Great West.

The people of the city are above the average of the English speaking peoples of the world in energy, education and refinement. Inasmuch as the axiom, "the demand creates the supply," is good almost anywhere. The splendid stores, handsome churches, and beautiful homes of Brandon are strong arguments in support of the claim.

The streets of the city, although not very wide, are well kept and are provided with granolithic sidewalks. The city also possesses all the improvements of modern times, including electric light, telephones, waterworks, sewers, etc. Brandonites enthusiastically claim that the city is several degrees higher in temperature than the city of Winnipeg. This was conclusively proved by observatory reports during the cold spell of last month at any rate. But whether the larger number of politicians to the square inch in the ambitious city of Western Manitoba effects the climatic conditions has not as yet been determined. The public buildings, the business blocks and the residential portion of the city is superior to the average cities of the Dominion, that is the number of superior buildings per capita is much greater.

The business men of the city are particularly bright and progressive and in natural course of events with the great wave of progress and development that is now pervading the West the population of the city should double in a few years.

Brandon is one of the most important railway centres in the West, situated as it is on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and being a divisional point of that mighty system. It is also the terminus of the Morris-Brandon branch of the Canadian Northern Railway system. Also of the former Great West Central, Pipestone and Souris branches of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The city is laid out on the square. The avenues run due east and west, and the streets north and south. This plan makes it quite easy for the newcomer to find his way about.

Brandon was for many years, and is still by a great many, known as the Wheat City. For many years a greater quantity of wheat was shipped from here than from any other town on the face of the globe. But, of recent years, the development of the West has been so rapid, a network of railroads has been constructed, and many great wheat centres have been established, both in the province of Manitoba and in the Northwest Territories.

There is in the city a thriving organization of the Young Men's Christian Association which does a noble work in assisting, directing and entertaining young men. A free reading room is provided. Reading, newspapers and magazines of the day are provided.

There is also a flourishing athletic and baseball association in the city, and a hockey club that once wrested the championship from the Gaul Invincibles of Rat Portage.

Brandon derives its name from the Brandon hills, situated south of the city, which in turn are supposed to

and the manufacturing industries have greatly increased during recent years. New buildings of over one million dollars in value were erected during the past season, and at the time of writing building was still going on.

The materials used in the buildings of the city are: Ordinary and pressed brick manufactured in the town, red pressed brick imported from St. Louis, native stones and in some cases imported ones, lumber manufactured in the city and also imported from New Ontario, the United States and British Columbia.



THE COURT HOUSE, BRANDON, MAN.

have been named by the early settlers after the Brandon hills of Bonnie Scotland. These hills were known in the early days as the Blue Hills of Brandon. Fort Brandon, situated at the junction of the Souris and Assiniboine rivers, twenty miles southeast of the city, was an important point when the Hudson's Bay Co. held sway over the country. There are still ruins here of log buildings and barricades of stone. The Assiniboine River is navigable as far north as Fort Pelly, and with a small expenditure in dredging could be made navigable for properly constructed boats to Winnipeg.

Socially Brandon has many advantages. The people are noted for their hospitality and friendliness.

A DISTRIBUTING POINT.

Brandon is the natural distributing point of a big district, as railways extend their arms in every direction from the city. The wholesale business

CITY COUNCIL.

The city council for this year consist of Mayor Robert Hall; Aldermen Wm. Zink, Alex. Trotter, T. E. Kelly, I. R. Strome, W. W. Carruthers, T. R. Horner, G. R. Coldwell, H. B. Maley.

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

Brandon has a well organized fire department. E. G. Wiswell is chief, and Mr. Crawford has been engineer for many years. The appliances for fighting the fire element consist of a steam engine, chemical engine, a hand fire extinguisher, a hose waggon, a hose reel, hook and ladder hose sleigh and the usual paraphernalia for extinguishing a blaze.

BOARD OF TRADE.

President H. Nation; vice president, John Inglis; secretary-treasurer, K. Campbell.

GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Brandon has in the general hospital a well equipped institution for the care



BRANDON TOWN HALL.

and cure of the sick and maimed. It was established in the early days, but a large addition was completed during the past season at a cost of \$23,000. The principal officials are: President board of directors, Henry Meredith; secretary, R. E. A. Leach; treasurer, John Inglis; lady superintendent, Miss Bertles.

ELEVATOR CAPACITY.

The elevator capacity of the city of Brandon consists of the following:

	Bushels.
A. Kelly Milling Co.	120,000
Alexander & Law Bros.	170,000
Ogilvie Mills Co.	35,000
A. E. McKenzie & Co.	35,000
Dominion Elevator Co.	35,000

Total 395,000

EDUCATION.

The city of Brandon is the educational centre for Western Manitoba. The third class normal school for that section of the province holds its session at Brandon every year, beginning in the month of January. The public schools of the city are of the highest order. The collegiate institute gives a good general training and prepares pupils for the different departmental examinations and entrance to the university and professional schools. The Western Teachers' Association and the Central Farmers' Institute meet at Brandon.

The school board for the present year consists of Wm. Alexander, chairman; J. A. McDonald, J. P. Brisbin, A. D. Rankin, S. E. Clement, R. M. Matheson, Rev. McAdam Harding, Henry Sampson. Secretary-treasurer, Wm. Walker; principal of public schools, H. F. Forrest; principal collegiate, W. N. Finlay.

The new central school is a very superior structure of 20 rooms. The old central school has four rooms, the west ward school four rooms and the east ward school two rooms. There is a good library in connection with the public schools, of which the pupils take full advantage.

The employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Young Men's

The Palace Hotel

EIGHTH STREET, ✱

Between Rosser and Princess Avenue,

BRANDON, MAN.

This House has lately been refurnished and fitted with Steam Heating throughout, and all modern improvements. The bar stocked with the finest wines, liquors and cigars. ✱ ✱ ✱

RATES

One dollar per day and upwards.

GEORGE W. HADLEY, Prop.



MILLS OF THE HANBURY MANUFACTURING CO., BRANDON, MAN.

Christian Association have also good libraries.

The Young Men's Liberal Conservative Club, the Young Men's Liberal Club, and the Young Men's Club are thriving institutions in the city.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The industrial school for the children of the Indians is situated immediately west of the experimental farm. Rev. T. H. Ferrier is the principal. The institution is doing noble work in civilizing and christianizing the aboriginal race, and in directing them in the right path to secure a living. It is a small contribution to the noble red man from his white brother for depriving him of his vast heritage in the prairies, lakes and woods of the Great West.

THE POST OFFICE.

The Brandon post office building is the finest for the purpose in the province of Manitoba or the Territories. The ground floor is devoted to the post office department, Kenneth Campbell, postmaster. The customs department is on the second floor, H. C. Graham, collector. The land office is on the second floor, L. J. Clement, agent, and James Gibson, homestead inspector. The inland revenue department is on the third floor, J. Girdlestone, collector.

THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

The Department of Agriculture of the Dominion Government have conducted an experimental farm in the suburbs of Brandon since the year 1887. The first crop was taken off in the year 1888. The farm consists of 700 acres, about 520 acres of which is valley land, 100 acres of side hill, and 80 acres of upland. The soil varies from sandy loam to gravelly loam and stiff clay loam, and therefore gives considerable scope for experiments. The barn on the farm is 100 x 50 feet in dimensions, with a basement ten feet high. There are also a piggery, a poultry house, and other commodious out buildings. The beauty and utility of the farm is greatly enhanced by probably five miles of avenue trees and a nursery containing about 100,000 young trees. Experiments are made from year to year with 75 varieties of oats, 50 of peas, 42 of wheat, 40 of barley, and about 200 of miscellaneous plots. The yields during recent years have been from 50 to 114 bushels of oats per acre, wheat 19 to 45 bushels, peas 23 to 50 bushels, barley 35 to 68 bushels. There are about ten miles of good roads on the farm, a good portion of which are gravelled.

Thousands of farmers and others visit the farm every year and profit by the experiments carried on. Mr. S. A. Bedford, the superintendent, enjoys the confidence and esteem of the farmers and citizens generally. He possesses the happy faculty of not only acquiring information but of imparting

it to others, and consequently is a very popular lecturer at farmers' institutes.

RELIGION.

The city of Brandon is probably as well provided with cities as any city in the Dominion. The church buildings are of a superior architecture and construction. Most of them are also provided with handsome, rich toned pipe organs. The religious element is strong in the community. The church services were during the writer's visit well attended, both morning and evening. The following are the pastors of the leading congregations:

English Church, Rev. McAdam Harding.

Presbyterian Church, Rev. R. Dick-ey.

Methodist Church, Rev. W. H. Ems-ley.

Baptist Church, Rev. R. R. McKay.

Congregational Church, Rev. T. A. Munroe.

Roman Catholic Church, Rev. Father Godtz.

There is also an Icelandic Church, a Jewish synagogue and a Salvation

Army barracks. All these organizations do a vast amount of good in the community.

FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

The following fraternal societies are well represented in the city of Brandon: Independent Order, Canadian Order and Ancient Order of Foresters, Ancient Order United Workmen, Independent Order Oddfellows, Sons of England, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, Knights of the Golden Horseshoe, and Knights of Pythias.

THE SOIL.

There is probably more variety of soil in the Brandon district than in other parts of the province. Ranging from light and gravelly on the banks of the river to heavy clay loam a little distance from the stream. This is the very best soil for wheat growing, to which the settlers devote their principal attention. Wheat grown in the district is of the very best milling kind. It finds a ready market at home and abroad. British millers want nothing

better than Brandon wheat to mix with their softer varieties.

SPORTS.

Pelican Lake, situated 40 miles south of Brandon, furnishes excellent fishing. Jack fish and pike are the predominant fish in these waters. White-water Lake, 50 miles southwest of the city, is a favorite haunt of the wild goose, and it is a veritable happy hunting ground for the sharpshooters of Brandon and district.

AS A BUSINESS CENTRE.

THE HANBURY MANUFACTURING CO.

The Hanbury Manufacturing Company of Brandon are among the leading manufacturers and dealers in lumber and lumber products in the great West.

The saw mills of the company are conveniently situated on the banks of the Assiniboine River. The company employ 300 men and between 50 and 60 teams of horses during the winter months upon their extensive timber limits situated in the Duck mountain district in what is termed making logs.



DRIVE OF LOGS ON THE ASSINIBOINE FOR THE HANBURY MANUFACTURING CO., BRANDON.

The trees are cut down, trimmed of their branches, and sawed into desired lengths, and then drawn by teams to the banks of the Shell river, a tributary of the Assiniboine river, and which empties into the latter at Shellmouth. After the disappearance of the ice in spring the logs are floated and driven down the Shell and Assiniboine rivers to the mills in the city of Brandon. The distance from Brandon to the limits is only about 250 miles as the crow flies. But following the famous circuitous course of the Assiniboine the distance is between 600 and 700 miles. Owing to the Shell river being a narrow stream, and consequently jams in the drive being of common occurrence, about 100 men are required to handle the logs until they arrive in the Assiniboine waters. Between 40 and 50 men can, however, manage the logs between Shellmouth and the mill boom at Brandon. It usually takes about six weeks time to bring the logs from the distant north to their destination. Between 125,000 and 150,000 pieces of logs will be cut during the present season which will produce about 8,000,000 feet of lumber.

The principal timber cut by the firm is spruce, with a slight sprinkling of tamarac. Judging from the small quantity of lumber carried over by the company from one season to another, spruce lumber must be very popular in the province of Manitoba and the adjoining territories. The Hanbury Manufacturing Company, in addition to disposing of their own productions, deal very extensively, wholesale and retail, in British Columbia cedar lumber and shingles, fir and other woods. Also Minnesota pine and American hard woods. The utility of the manufacturing plant was recently greatly increased by the erection of a new factory, equipped with the most modern machinery for the manufacture of doors, windows and wood turning. The manufacturing of Dowell doors is a speciality. With the aid of the most modern machinery this improved door is manufactured and sold at the same price as the old style panel door. Oak veneer doors and oak mantles of great

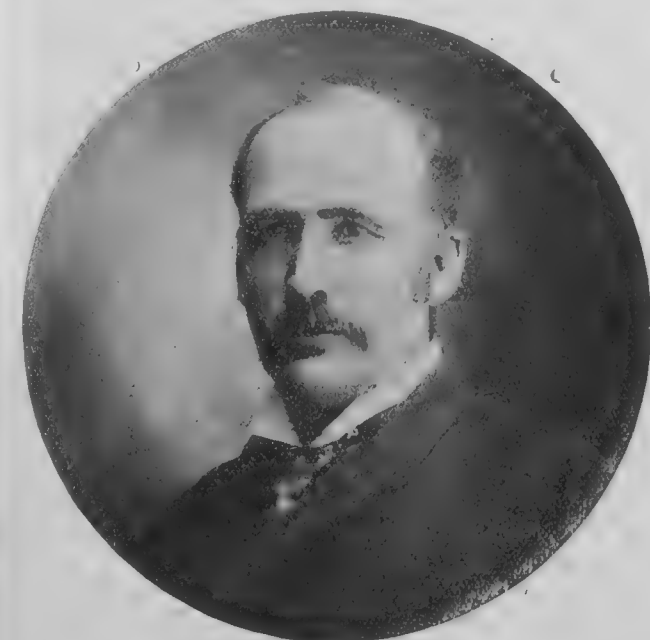


RESIDENCE OF JOHN HANBURY, BRANDON, MAN.

tution requires hard wood fittings, the Hanbury Manufacturing Company can readily fill the order. Then again the scrawl and wood turning department is very complete and the company are in a position to fill any order for any class of fittings and furnishings for the best homes, banks, offices and stores of the west. The boilers that supply the power and heat necessary for the factory are heated by shavings fed automatically from the different machines in the factory. There is a commodious and modern dry kiln at the east end of the factory where lumber for manufacturing purposes is properly seasoned. The yard space comprises 40 acres and is well adapted for the purpose for which it is used. A spur track from

and for a number of years followed the business of contracting. In the year 1889 he erected a small factory. The business grew, increased and prospered in the manner that is characteristic of the West. In 1897 Mr. Hanbury purchased the saw mill, plant and

machinery of the Assiniboine Lumber Co. Mr. Hanbury spent a part of the past season in British Columbia, and while there purchased a timber limit consisting of 11,000 acres, which is estimated to contain 350,000,000 feet of lumber. He contemplates erecting a



JOHN HANBURY, ESQ. BRANDON.

beauty and solidity are also manufactured. Whether the new settler desires a plain door or window for his first shanty—or the prosperous settler or merchant after years of prosperity require articles in keeping with their improved positions—or the building committee of a rich and prosperous church congregation require a handsome colored window, or a big banking insti-

and in the acquiring and imparting of information.

JOHN HANBURY.

A short sketch of the business career of Mr. Hanbury will be of interest to the general reader and will, we trust, prove an inspiration to the young men of the West. He came to the district from Dundalk, Ont., in the year 1882,

The Beaubier House

Offers superior accommodation to the travelling public. The best dollar a day house in the

City of Brandon

and Western Manitoba. Equipped with all modern conveniences. Lavatories on each floor. Hot and cold water baths. The bar is stocked with the best brands of liquors and cigars. First-class meals, served promptly.



E. M. Carroll & Co.,
PROPRIETORS.

R. W. Johnston,
MANAGER.

mill at Vancouver at some future date. He also purchased during the past summer the new saw mill of Leask & Slater at Cranbrook, B. C.; also 8,000 acres of timber limits, and secured besides an option on 4,000 acres additional. This enterprise is conducted under the style of the North Star Lumber Company. The capacity of the mill is 50,000 feet of lumber per day of ten hours. Seventy men and 15 teams of horses are employed. Mr. Hanbury recently organized the Manitoba Hardware & Lumber Co., Limited, with a capital of \$150,000. He is president of this organization, which has branches already established at Hamiota, Virden and Reston. A full and complete assortment of general hardware, lumber and building material is kept at these points. A cut of Mr. Hanbury's residence appears in this issue. It is situated on the corner of Lorne Avenue and Fifth Street, Brandon, and is an ideal home, erected according to the owner's own plans, with material from the mill and factory. The home is surrounded by grounds beautifully ornamented with Manitoba maple and spruce shade trees and shrubs. Mr. Hanbury represents the best type of Canadian manhood. Commercially and socially he possesses sterling qualities. His big heart and magnetic influence attract to him the best of employees, and all combine to achieve the greatest success in the various enterprises. It was such men as Mr. Hanbury the poet had in his mind when he sang:

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.
Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

BRANDON'S GREATEST STORE.

A visitor to the city of Brandon who is at all desirous of taking in the sights will be at once attracted by the imposing and massive structure known as the Syndicate Block on Rosser Avenue, the gable end of which bears the name of "A. D. Rankin & Co. Brandon's Greatest Store." An inspection of the interior of the noble pile will convince the most skeptical that the claim implied by the sign is no idle boast—for truly it is a great store. The building, in the first place, is one of the finest in Western Canada. The part occupied by A. D. Rankin & Co. has a frontage of 60 feet and a depth of 100 feet, three floors and a basement the full size, devoted to the business. The ceiling of the first floor is 15 feet high, while that of the third floor is 17 feet high. The establishment is equipped with the most modern appliances for the successful carrying on of a big business—including an electric cash carrying system operated by a motor placed in the basement. The contents will compare favorably with any assortment of merchandise to be found in any of the retail establishments of the big cities of the Dominion.

Mr. A. D. Rankin, the head of the firm, attends personally to the management. He is ably aided by an army of expert, courteous and obliging assistants. The ground floor, which is in two sections, each one in itself a large store, is devoted to dry goods, including the product of the best manufacturing factories of Canada, Great Britain, France and Germany. The assortment of dress goods is an especially fine one. The men's furnishing section contains the



LADIES' DEPARTMENT A. D. RANKIN & Co.'s STORE, BRANDON, MAN.

latest and best that the most fastidious of the sterner sex can desire, suits and overcoats from the serviceable Canadian tweed at a moderate price to the finest imported cloths. Fur coats of all grades to suit all tastes. Fur caps, gauntlets, collars, etc. Neckties of all kinds, colors, shapes and prices are shown. There is also a great variety of top shirts and underwear. The hat and cap department is a very complete one, and westerners may cover their heads with a cloth cap at half a dollar or they may indulge in the most costly fur head gear that is to be found in the market.

On the second floor the visitor will find a very large assortment of carpets in all grades and patterns from the serviceable wool carpet to the most exquisite Brussels and Axminsters

also splendid rugs and squares, curtains in great variety,—beautiful lace and handsome tapestry.

The firm carry an extensive stock of choice furs. The display of ladies' fur coats is immense, from the moderate price kinds, such as astrachan, bockarren, coon and electric seal, at from \$25 to \$75, up to the beautiful Persian lamb and real seal jackets at \$150 to \$250. This gives some idea of the superior class of goods in demand in this western country.

Marching forward to the front of the second floor the visitor is treated to a view of fairy land in the millinery department. Within a space richly carpeted and curtained is displayed the best creations of the feminine brain. Hats that are perfect dreams. But we must give it up as justice cannot be done to

and girls born in the province and in fact to many of the parents who may not have visited the city of Brandon during recent years.

Mr. A. D. Rankin, the proprietor of "Brandon's greatest store" is a native of Scotland, where he learned his business, being drilled in all departments with a thoroughness characteristic of the Scotch. His experience also in some of the best houses of the United States and Canada has eminently fitted him for the conducting of a large up-to-date business. Mr. Rankin is a man of great energy—possessed of superior business ability and personal qualities, and his standing in all circles wherein

—000—

MESSAGE TO ALL CANADIANS

That Dodd's Kidney Pills Cure
all Stages of Kidney Disease.

Emilien Cloutre had Backache, Headache and could not Sleep—Now he can Sleep, Work and Enjoy Life—Dodd's Kidney Pills did it.

VAL RACINE, Que., Dec. 4.—(Special). In these days when nearly every newspaper tells of deaths from Kidney Disease the case of Emilien Cloutre of this place comes as a message of hope to the Canadian people. He had Kidney Disease. Dodd's Kidney Pills cured him completely and permanently.

M. Cloutre is always glad to tell of his cure. He says: "I can not do otherwise than praise Dodd's Kidney Pills. They cured me of Kidney Disease."

"I had pains in the back and headache and could not sleep at nights. I got up in the morning more fatigued than the night before. I took nine boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills and they cured me completely. Now I can sleep well and work well and my backache and headache are gone. I have had no trouble since I took Dodd's Kidney Pills."

Dodd's Kidney Pills never fail to cure Kidney Disease from Backache to Bright's Disease. They have an unbroken record of thirteen years in Canada.

When writing advertisers mention Western Home Monthly.



MEN'S DEPARTMENT, A. D. RANKIN & Co.'s STORE, BRANDON, MAN.



A. D. RANKIN & Co.'s STORE, BRANDON.

he is connected is of the highest. He enjoys the universal esteem and confidence of all who know him. He is a prominent member of the board of trade, the school board, hospital board and other councils in the interest of the city.

BRANDON WOOLLEN MILLS.

A woollen mill is one of the most important industries in the midst of a farming community. The Brandon woollen mills have recently been started, and the company is now being incorporated with a capital of \$60,000. The mill is now in full operation with a complete plant of the most modern machinery, driven by a sixty-five horse power engine. The company have, so far, confined their attention to the manufacture of yarns, blankets and flannel. The wool is purchased direct from the farmers. The manufactured articles are sold wholesale and retail.

The business is under the management of B. N. Fraser, who for a number of years conducted the Morden woollen mills, which he sold last year in order to engage on a more extensive scale. The enterprise deserves the unanimous support of the farmers of the district, as it will create a good demand for wool. The company will only use the pure Manitoba wool in the manufacture of the goods. Mr. B. Pointer, the foreman of the mill, was for fourteen years foreman of the Wakefield woollen mills at Ottawa. He understands thoroughly the manufacturing of all kinds of woollen goods. The mill building is a three-storey one, 50 x 75 feet. There is also a large office and warehouse 30 x 40 feet.



THE BEAUBIER, BRANDON, MAN.

THE BEAUBIER HOUSE.

The Beaubier House is a solid brick three storey building, 100 x 120 feet in dimensions, equipped with all modern improvements, heated with hot air and provided with lavatories on every floor, hot and cold water baths. The bar is

stocked with the best of wines, pure liquors and the leading brands of cigars. The culinary department is in good hands. The Beaubier caters to the farmer and working class trade, and is certainly one of the best hostleries of this class between Lake Superior and the Rockies. Mr. R. W. Johnston, the manager, thoroughly understands his business and enjoys the confidence and respect of the many patrons of the house. The proprietors are E. M. Carrol & Co. The senior partner is the manager for a large wholesale liquor house in Winnipeg.

BANK OF HAMILTON.

The Bank of Hamilton Brandon office is situated on the corner of Rosser Avenue, on Eight Street, under the management of Mr. J. W. Wetherstone. This solid financial institution has contributed largely to the development and progress of the city of Brandon and the vast territory tributary thereto. The Bank of Hamilton make a specialty of farmers' business and the grain trade, and is always ready to aid any solid and legitimate business enterprise. Especial attention is paid to the savings department, and interest is allowed on all sums from \$1.00 upwards, thus fostering thrift and economy in the young.

THE ASYLUM.

A building that will attract the attention of the westbound traveller as he approaches Brandon is the asylum which stands out prominently on the hillside to the north of the city. As public institutions are generally an index to the character of the people

the medical profession, nurses and attendance have combined to effect remarkable cures in those unfortunates who through solitude, worry, or other causes, become temporarily deranged. What is now the Brandon asylum was erected in 1889 for reformatory purposes, but either the boys of the district were by nature above the average, or the erection of such an institution had such an effect upon them that sufficient pupils could not be secured to keep the officials appointed by the government from rusting. In the year 1891, when the Hon. Jas. A. Smart was Minister of Public Works, a bill was enacted by the Provincial Legislature transforming the erstwhile reformatory into an asylum, and as a result it was opened on July 14, 1891, with forty-one patients transferred from the Selkirk Asylum. By special arrangements with the federal authorities Dominion patients are also treated here. In pursuance of this arrangement thirty-five patients were transferred to this institution from Stony Mountain on March 14th, 1893.

J. J. H. McLEAN Co. LTD.

The McLean Co. carry in their Brandon branch a full assortment of pianos and organs. Their leader is the Heintzman piano, which has been Canada's favorite instrument for half a century, and by consistent progress in every piano essential the Heintzman secures accumulative prosperity. The company also handle other different makes of pianos. They are sole agents for the Sherlock-Manning organ. These superior instruments are made by men of long experience and are especially well adapted for both parlor and church use. The McLean Co. do a large exchange business and often have organs which are none the worse for wear which sell at greatly reduced prices. Pianos being now "all the fashion" the citizens and country residents generally will trade their organs for a good piano, giving those who do not wish to indulge in the more expensive instrument a chance to get a good organ at a very low figure.

The Brandon branch opened Sept 1

last. Mr. J. G. Avery, who is also interested in the company, is manager of this branch. Owing to the great prosperity in the province and territories the last few years, a large number of people have been able to furnish their homes with the very best. Consequently the increased demand for Heintzman & Co.'s pianos has been beyond the company's most sanguine expectations, causing in some cases difficulty and delay in securing shipments as rapidly as they would wish.

SYLVESTER

MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Limited

Brandon, Man.

MANUFACTURERS OF

SEEDERS
LAND ROLLERS
HARROWS
CULTIVATORS
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A full range of sizes in HOE DRILLS, SHOE DRILLS, DOUBLE DISC DRILLS.

We are sole owners and manufacturers of STEPHENSON'S PATENT DOUBLE DISC.

Represented by the leading implement dealers in Manitoba and N.W.T.

BRANDON RETAIL WAREHOUSE:

MARKET SQUARE

A full line of highest grade implements and repairs always kept in stock.

Bank of Hamilton

Head Office, HAMILTON.

Capital (paid up) - - - - - \$2,163,291
Reserve Fund - - - - - \$1,338,796



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Agencies throughout Ontario and the following points in Manitoba and the West: Brandon, Carman, Hamiota, Manitou, Miami, Minnedosa, Morden, Plum Coulee, Pilot Mound, Roland, Stonewall, Winkler, Winnipeg, Indian Head, N.W.T., Moose Jaw, N.W.T., Saskatoon, N.W.T., Kamloops and Vancouver, B.C.

Deposits received and interest allowed.
General Banking Business transacted.
Collections carefully and promptly effected at all points in Canada.
Savings Banks at all Offices.

Brandon Agency,

Corner Eighth Street and Rosser Ave.
W. G. Weatherston, Agent

THOUSANDS OF "REESOR" WATCHES

Are to-day giving perfect satisfaction to as many purchasers. Our store has long been known as one that has always offered customers the best watches in Canada. In purchasing a watch from our stock you will not only buy at a money-saving price, but you will have as well our personal quality guarantee.

D. A. REESOR

141,912,000 TICKS.

Your watch ticks 141,912,000 times every year. The various wheels revolve from 8,768 to 4,730,430 times in the same period. The balance wheel travels 5,838 miles during one year's running of the watch. And yet some watches are allowed to run for years without cleaning and fresh oil. The best skill of the best workmen at the least possible expense awaits. A postcard brings a mailing box. We will examine your watch and report cost.

D. A. REESOR

"REESOR" RINGS.

We pride ourselves on our ring display and we show them confidently, knowing as well as can be that more value than we give would have to cost more than we charge. The regulation wedding ring, all weights, all sizes, all prices; besides every conceivable combination of stones in engagement rings.

D. A. REESOR

A SUPERB XMAS DISPLAY.

The holiday season finds us this year with a finer and more complete stock than ever before. No like display of fine goods suitable for 'Xmas anywhere else. No store where you will find so much that is unique and exclusive. No store where you will find greater welcome in your 'Xmas shopping.

D. A. REESOR
"The Jeweler"
BRANDON, MAN.

Official Watch Inspector for
C.P.R. and C.N.R.

Issuer of Marriage Licenses.



EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR VIEWS OF REESOR'S JEWELRY STORE, BRANDON.

D. A. REESOR.

Mr. Reesor is the official watch inspector for the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern railway systems in this district. He is also issuer of marriage licenses. The business was established twenty years ago in a small store, a half-tone cut of which appears in this issue. The business, however, has kept pace with the development and prosperity of the great West. Mr. Reesor undoubtedly owns one of the largest, most complete and elegantly appointed jewellery stores in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, containing an extensive stock of watches, diamonds, jewellery and silver ware. The diamond department is worthy of special mention. Mr. Reesor buys direct from the brokers at Amsterdam, where all diamonds are cut. The profits of the Canadian wholesale dealers are thus obviated and he is able to compete with any retailer in the country. The repairing department is most complete. Expert mechanics are employed, including two men from the Waltham and Elgin watch factories. Mr. Reesor employs the only manufacturing jeweller and engraver in Western Manitoba. Patrons are therefore not compelled to wait for special work until it can be sent East and returned. In addition to a large local trade, Mr. Reesor does an extensive mail order business between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains. He takes a special pride in filling orders received from outside points, realizing that the reputation of the establishment is at stake. Watches and jewellery sent for repairs from distant points are attended to with promptitude. In the optical department a practical optician is employed who is thoroughly conversant with the modern methods of treating optical defects and the art of spectacle fitting. All who suffer from defective vision are examined free of charge, and the use of glasses are only recommended where absolutely necessary.

THE PALACE HOTEL.

The Palace Hotel, conducted by Mr. Geo. W. Hadley, who for some eleven years was well and favorably known as manager of the Russell House, Rat Portage, is one of the most popular middle class hostels in Western Manitoba. The Palace has recently been refurnished and renovated. Among the improvements is a complete steam heating plant, which upon the coldest day in winter is capable of

introducing midsummer heat to any corner of the establishment. The place is lighted by electricity throughout. Special attention is paid to the culinary department and the traveller is always sure of a good square meal at the Palace. It is convenient to the business centre of the city.

SYLVESTER MANUFACTURING CO.

The Sylvester Manufacturing Co., of Lindsay, Ont., have a branch at Brandon, from which all their Manitoba and Northwest Territory trade is conducted. The drills, harrows, land rollers and gasoline engines manufactured by this firm are well and favorably known throughout the country.

paper, school supplies, musical goods, sporting supplies, fancy goods, toys and a host of other lines. It is the size and up-to-dateness of their stock, together with their famous low prices, that has made the business what it is. With special facilities for getting books, music, etc., to order from all parts of the world they can certainly satisfy anyone, no matter what they want. The mail order business done by this progressive Brandon firm extends from Winnipeg to Calgary, and is constantly growing. From eight to twelve assistants are employed and they attend to every customer, whether in town or out, promptly and well. Beyond question "The Great Bookstore



INTERIOR OF WARNER'S BOOKSTORE, BRANDON, MAN.

WARNER'S.

"The Great Bookstore of the Great West." There are few people in this part of the country who have not heard of this popular store, which has grown in fifteen years from a modest little concern in a very small building to be the most widely known institution of its kind in Western Canada.

They occupy their own large and commodious building on Rosser Avenue, two floors and a basement being filled to the limit with a truly magnificent stock of books, stationery, wall

of the Great West" is in the front rank.

CAREER OF A GREAT BANK.

The Bank of Montreal opened for business on Monday, November 3rd, 1817, in a building belonging to the Armour Estate, situated on St. Paul Street, Montreal, with a paid up capital of \$350,000. The first president was John Grey, and the first cashier was Robert Griffin. In the year 1819 the capital was increased to \$650,000 and in the following year to \$750,000. It was gradually increased from time to

time until 1903, when the paid up capital is \$13,379,240. In the first full year (1819) of the bank's operations a dividend was paid at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, and since then (with the exceptions of the years 1827 and 1828 when the bank did not pay any dividend) the annual dividends have ranged from 6 to 16 per cent. (or say a dividend of 12 per cent. with a bonus of 4 per cent.) according to the earnings, but of late years 10 per cent. per annum has been the rate paid. After 8 per cent. had been paid as dividend in 1819 a balance of \$4,168 remained on hand and was laid aside as a rest. From that date of small beginnings the rest has steadily grown. In 1825 it was \$30,780, going down to \$12,064 in the following year, and then going up again to \$107,084 two years later. In 1830 it stood at \$31,360. Five years later it stood at \$80,660, reaching \$197,828 in 1827, dwindling down to \$89,480. In 1850 it was \$120,192. In 1860 it was \$740,000. In 1870 \$3,000,000. In 1880, \$5,000,000. In 1884, \$6,000,000. In 1900, \$7,000,000, and now it stands at \$9,000,000, and there are additional undivided profits amounting to \$724,807. On the 1st of January, 1858, the system of decimal currency was adopted in the Bank of Montreal, and since that date all monetary transactions have been recorded in the bank's books in dollars and cents. Previous to that date the books were kept in what was styled Halifax currency—pounds, shillings and pence—the pound being of the value of \$4.00. In 1863 the Bank of Montreal was appointed banker in Canada for the Canadian government, and on 1st January, 1903, Mr. E. S. Clouston, being general manager at the time, became their financial agent in Great Britain also.

The Brandon branch of this great institution was opened November 1st last, with Mr. J. W. G. Watson, formerly accountant in the Winnipeg branch, as manager.

renovated and improved. It is in every respect modern. There are good, sample rooms for commercial travellers. The rooms are large, clean and well ventilated. Special attention is paid to the cuisine. The bar is stocked with the leading brands of wines, liquors and cigars. The proprietor, Mr. Vivian, took over the establishment last summer, buying out Mr. T. E. Shore. Previously he conducted the Elgin House, at Elgin, Man., for five years in partnership with his brother, Albert, who is now proprietor of the Vivian House, Winnipeg. The brothers also conducted a harness shop at Elgin, and with another brother, published the Elgin Banner. Mr. Vivian is an

WHEN WRITING TO
ADVERTISERS
PLEASE MENTION THE
WESTERN
HOME MONTHLY.

ideal hotel man, a man of sterling business qualities, courteous and obliging. The Langham presents many attractions to the tired traveller being a little off the main business thoroughfare the guests escape the noise and bustle of a busy city. It is further about as homelike as a city hotel can be. Visitors to the city will have their comforts well studied at the Langham.

R. E. TRUMBELL.

Mr. Trumbell came to the province of Manitoba in the year 1883 from Woodstock, Ont. He conducted an hotel in the town of Virden until 1888 when he purchased the wholesale



THE LANGHAM, BRANDON, MAN.

THE LANGHAM HOTEL.
The Langham, conducted by Mr. L. Vivian, is the leading commercial hostelry of Brandon. It has recently been

liquor business of J. J. Caulfield. He removed to Brandon in June, 1902, in order to be in a position to better handle his fast increasing business. Mr. Trumbell is a man of sterling business qualities. His store and warehouse are well filled with the best brands of wines, liquors, ale, porter, mineral water and cigars, recognized in the trade.

E. J. SPRAGUE.

Among the recent arrivals to embark on the commercial sea is Mr. Sprague, who has recently opened a dry goods and millinery store on Rosser Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets, immediately opposite the Brandon Hardware Co. Mr. Sprague has had considerable experience in commercial life. He has a nice stock of dress goods, ladies' blouses and millinery, all of good quality, which he offers to the public at very reasonable prices.

THE BRANDON COLLEGE.

Among the most important buildings and institutions of the city may be mentioned the Brandon College. Its present home, which is a handsome five-storey brick structure was erected in 1901 at a cost of over \$50,000. The

E. J. SPRAGUE

DEALER IN . .

Fancy

Dry Goods,

Notions and Millinery.

The Best Goods at lowest prices

ROSSER AVE.

(Opposite Brandon Hardware Co.)

BRANDON.

Bank of Montreal

ESTABLISHED 1817.

Capital	-	-	-	-	-	\$14,000,000
Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	\$10,000,000
Undivided Profits	-	-	-	-	-	\$373,988

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Branches in all the Provinces of Canada, London, Eng., New York, Chicago, Spokane and in the Island of Newfoundland. Drafts bought and sold on all parts of the world.

Savings Bank Department

Interest allowed on deposits of one dollar up, at current rates.

BRANDON BRANCH: 10th Street above Rosser Ave.

J. W. G. WATSON, Manager.



THE BRANDON COLLEGE.

curriculum comprises academic, arts, theological and business departments. Rev. A. P. McDiarmid, D.D., assisted by an efficient staff of professors, guide the students through the intricate path of knowledge. The college probably owes its origin to Prof. J. S. McKee, who is at the present time one of the staff, and who many years ago foresaw the great needs of the West and the important part that Brandon should play as an educational centre by opening a private academy, the outcome of which has been the present magnificent college.

Chicken Raising on the Farm.

Chickens and chicken raising are a very important part of the work on a farm, and if properly attended to will add considerable to the financial income of the farm. I have had some experience along this line, and as I have learned many valuable things through this experience I feel sure that I can give new beginners in this work some good ideas. Of course we will find many difficulties to encounter in this work, as well as any other money-making industry.

Some people have a great deal of trouble with mites when setting hens. In order to avoid this I have broad shelves made in the henhouse. Then I get boxes, each box just large enough to set one hen in. I put in a sufficient amount of straw to make a soft nest, then the eggs and set the box upon the shelf, have some extra boxes and every week take the eggs out of the nest. Take the box in which the hens have been setting to an open place, where there is no grass, and burn the straw just close enough to the box, so that the flames will penetrate all the little cracks and crevices in the box. This destroys all the mites and eggs therein.

When the chickens are hatched I give

each hen from ten to twelve chickens. Most people give them from twenty to thirty, but I find that the ordinary hen will not raise more than a dozen chickens. I also have a separate box for each hen and her brood to roost in at night. These boxes should be placed quite a distance apart to prevent fighting among the hens, so that each hen will keep her own brood of chickens. The hen should be tied near the door of the box for two or three days or until she gets accustomed to roosting in the box, then she can be turned loose and will go to her own box at night or when it rains during the day.—Mrs. Laura Frymire, in Successful Farming.

Dropping boards should be arranged under roosts and the floor kept covered with straw or fresh litter. The droppings should be removed at least three times a week and the litter as often as it becomes foul.

Air-slaked lime is cheap and will serve to make a damp poultry house dry and destroy the germs of roup. The floor, walls, roosts, nests and yards may be freely dusted with it.

A drop of glycerine is one of the best remedies for sore eyes in chickens. It will also soften and bring the color on shanks and toes that have become dry and harsh.

Sometimes hens are found dead under the perches while seemingly fat and in good condition. Often the trouble is that they are too fat and die of apoplexy.

Grit may be given in shape of sharp gravel, broken delf in very small pieces, broken oyster shells, etc. It is an absolute necessity.

Give the fowls occasionally some grit made of powdered limestone. It will break up easier if heated red hot.

FARMERS !



IMPROVED AND WILD LANDS

for sale in Manitoba, North-West Territories, Saskatchewan, Assiniboia.

MODERN CITY PROPERTY FOR SALE.

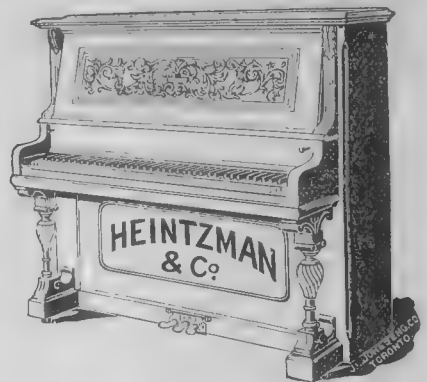
JAMES RIGG,

Real Estate Agent, BRANDON, MAN.

HEINTZMAN & CO'S PIANOS

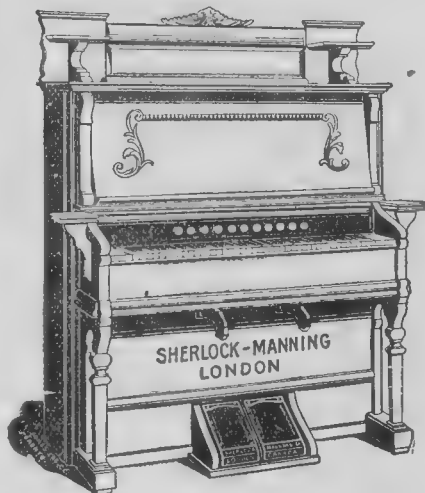
The favorite instrument of the leading artists of Canada from ocean to ocean.

With a reputation of 50 years, and still increasing in favor.



The Sherlock-Manning ORGANS

Are of superior construction, rich in tone, and very durable. We are sole agents in Manitoba and the N.W. Territories for these instruments.



J. J. H. McLEAN CO. Limited.

BRANCH :

ROSSER AVENUE
(East of 7th Street)

BRANDON, MAN.

HEAD OFFICE :

530 Main Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Langham Hotel

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Christmas in Bethlehem



BETHLEHEM stands upon a hillside, from the heights of which you can look down upon a fertile valley, rich with succulent grasses; the green sward sweeping upwards to the foothills, which are terraced into vineyards and circling olive-groves. It is one of the garden spots of Palestine.

The town itself appears imposing, with its white buildings clustering round a central group of churches; but all sense of grandeur vanishes, once you enter the labyrinth of crooked and narrow streets.

If you arrive at Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, you will find the great square

When the square seems to be so packed that even movement has become a struggle, a company of Turkish soldiers emerge from the barracks and march to the middle of the square, dividing the throngs, by you know not what magic art of compression. A few minutes later, a mounted officer appears, literally carving a way for himself by striking to right and left with the flat of his sword. You wonder at the docility of the patient peasants. Your wonder increases when, following the officers, come two soldiers on foot, who carry whips of hippopotamus hide, and with a curious admixture of determination and good humor, lash at the legs of those who are not quick enough at falling back. But a path must be made through the crowd for the procession of carriages, in the first of which is seated the bishop, who represents the Patriarch of Syria and Palestine.

floor, corresponding (say the monks who act as your guides), to the point in the heavens where the Star of Bethlehem hung on that memorable night and directly over the scene of the nativity.

The service on Christmas Eve does not commence until half past ten at night. At midnight, a curtain hung above the high altar, is drawn back, and a niche is revealed supporting a cradle, in which lies the image of the Holy child. The long service proceeds. At half-past two the little babe is born round the church in solemn procession to receive the adoration of the worshippers, and the curious glances of others to whom this part of the service is a senseless mummery. The waxen doll is gowned in lawn and lace.

While the service is going on, many people have passed the night in the grotto of the nativity, which is reached by a flight of stone stairs leading from the church. You descend these steps, and are conducted by a long passage into what was originally a cave—a grotto carved out of the limestone rock on the ridge of the mountain. Here, you are told, was the scene of the Saviour's birth. The grotto is of moderate height, and entirely lined and floored with marble. Thirty-two golden lamps, all of them gifts of Christian princes, are here kept burning day and night, and fill the chamber with their soft effulgence. The precise spot of the nativity is indicated by a "glory" in the floor, composed of marble and jasper, and encircled by a wreath of silver, about which is inscribed in Latin, "Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary."

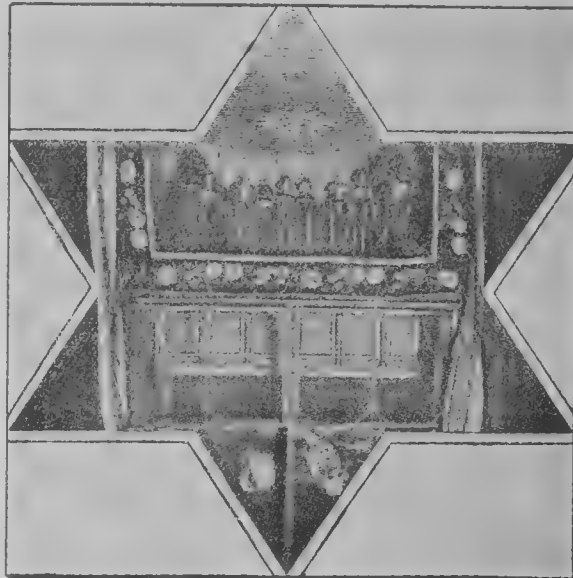
An altar, fixed in the rock, spreads over it. The original manger is believed to have been carried to Rome; but removed about seven paces from the star, another manger is preserved, carved out of marble, and which corresponds, both in shape and size, to the original. In front of this is the Altar of the Magi, on which incense is kept continually burning.

During the long hours of the night preceding Christmas the grotto is filled with worshippers. Christmas dawns as a day of festivity and rejoicing—the sun shines warmly down on that little city where the Son of God first appeared upon the world, to give to man his wonderful message and to bring "life and immortality to light."

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The Man Who Owns a Farm.

Let others bow in homage
To kings across the sea,
And crave the cherished titles
Of the aristocracy.
But the monarch I most envy



VISIBLE STAR IN CHURCH OF NATIVITY.

Has for me a greater charm:
I fain would wield the sceptre
Of the man who owns a farm.

Pretenders ne'er annoy him
Or anarchists assail.
Among his subjects loyal
Contentment doth prevail.
There, where the green fields beckon
He rules, secure from harm.
No monarch independent
As the man who owns a farm.

With pride he views his subjects,
In stable, pasture, sty:
A scene of sweet contentment
So pleasing to descry.
The songs of feathered warblers
Delight his tuneful ear,
While bolder, louder, swelleth
The tones of Chanticleer.

Again, with pride he ruleth
O'er tools which till his soil -
And reap the yield, abundant,
Resulting from his toil.
And when Boreas threatens
He rests, contented, warm,
The happiest of mortals,
The man who owns a farm.

—Orlo L. Dobson.

A man whose house is not well filled
with merry girls and boys
Has missed the very cream of life with
all their fun and noise;
And millions couldn't make me want to
give just one away—
They help to keep me young enough to
care for Christmas Day.

THE CHRISTMAS PROCESSION TO THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY.

between the Hotel Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity filled with people—a cosmopolitan crowd, whose varied, and often bright-hued, apparel adds to the picturesqueness of the scene.

Christmas in Bethlehem is a universal holiday. All business is suspended. Everyone is in the streets. The crowd to-day is little different from the vast concourse, which, nearly twenty centuries ago, thronged the little city in obedience to the edict that "all the world" was to be taxed. Once again, there is no room in the houses for the accommodation of late arrivals, and many of those who have come to attend the church services, or to take part in the out-door festivities, will spend their night in the open air.

Year after year, the same scenes are enacted at Christmas in Bethlehem.

Before the carriages gallop a small body of horsemen in bright uniforms—and, as the church is neared, the doors of the sacred edifice are thrown open, and a procession of priests and choir-boys emerges to meet the prelate and to clothe him in the gorgeous vestments of his office.

The Church of the Nativity was built by Constantine, early in the fourth century, and it was restored in the eleventh century by the Crusaders. On the red pillars which support the roof, the knights inscribed their names, and brave deeds, and crests; but their curious writings have been almost obliterated by time. The whole interior of the church is now brilliantly decorated with the costly furniture of modern ecclesiastical art.

You are shown a marble star in the



SCENE ON THE MARCH TO BETHLEHEM AT CHRISTMAS TIME.

Animal Proverbs.

That so large a proportion of the homely truths which our ancestors coined into proverbs should be derived from the traits of domestic animals and birds is only what might be expected of an agricultural people who passed their lives surrounded by farm stock. It must be admitted that the "wisdom of many and the wit of one," to employ Earl Russell's happy definition of the proverb, frequently illustrates the bad side of beast nature, and no animal has greater cause to complain of this one-sided treatment than the dog. Rarely do canine virtues supply the proverb-maker with a saying; on the other hand, the dog's shortcomings furnished so many warnings that we might almost suppose that animal to have been man's worst enemy instead of his best friend. He is pilloried as the emblem of every vice.

The dog in the manger was born in fable and probably never existed anywhere else; but that imaginary dog who refused to let the hungry ox touch the corn he could not eat himself has served as the archetype of selfishness since it occurred to human injustice to put him in the manger. "Idle dogs worry sheep" says a Scottish variant of "Satan finds some mischief still," etc.; and this, unhappily, cannot be gainsaid, for many eminently respectable and hard-working dogs have been



mal world.

What gave rise to the saying "To help a lame dog over a stile"? One feels doubtful about the justice of seeking its origin in Norman times, when the cruel forest law that condemned poaching dogs to lose their fore feet no doubt produced a very large supply of lame dogs; and yet the idea seems too far-fetched to have originated anywhere but in fact. Hedges—fences of all kinds—and therefore stiles, were rare in England so late as the sixteenth century, as we learn from Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, who, in Henry VIII.'s time wrote a book on agriculture, in which he urged on farmers the advantages of hedges and fences. The Royal forests were fenced to keep the game in and poachers out; so it may be that these were furnished with stiles, in which case the connection between the stile and dogs, lame or otherwise, which had no business in the woods would be clear enough. "The gude dog doesna aye get the best bone," says the irrefutable Scot, bor-



"BETTER A LIVE DOG THAN A DEAD LION."

known to fall from grace and enter upon a career of sheep-worrying as the amusement of their leisure hours. The dog might retort that his idle brother would not be able to worry sheep if his owner were at the trouble to chain him up. "He that lies down with dogs must expect to rise with fleas," says a blunt English proverb. This proverb seems to derive its origin from the household customs of the old-time farmer who was not over-addicted to the use of soap and water himself. His herdsman and other outdoor servants received lodging and food in part payment of their labor, and the lodging was of the rudest nature; the neatherd found quarters in the cattle-sheds and the stable hands in the stable, where the dogs also found shelter at night; and man and dog foregathered in the straw for mutual comfort and warmth. "Hungry dogs eat dirty puddings" has more pathos than reproach; hunger, whether on four legs or on two, cannot afford to be particular concerning its pudding. "A hair of the dog that bit you" has its origin in an ancient prescription for the treatment of a mad dog's bite.

Holland's translation from Pliny the elder shows that to "burn the haire of the same mad dog's taile and convey their ashes hand-somely . . . into the wound" was a remedy recommended by the Roman faculty. "Better a live dog than a dead lion," if consoling, relegates the dog to the lowest place in the ani-



"TO LIE LIKE A DOG LICKIN' A DISH."

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They are giving away to subscribers who estimate upon the number of letters of the alphabet and figures contained in the Speech from the Throne, which will be read at the opening of the next session of the Dominion Parliament, the prizes which are announced from week to week in the *Weekly Tribune*, and which number in all over 200, and aggregate in value over Two Thousand Dollars. The one making the nearest correct estimate of the exact total of the letters and figures in the speech will receive the first prize, which is a magnificent upright Mendelssohn piano valued at \$400; the second nearest, the second prize, a costly piano finish organ; the third nearest, the third prize, which is one of the celebrated six-foot cut Massey-Harris self-binders; and so on throughout the entire list of magnificent prizes, which embraces watches, stoves, plows, guns, silver tea sets, bedroom, dining-room and parlor suites, books, etc., etc.

All those competing must remit with their estimate one full year's subscription to The *Weekly Tribune*. New and renewal subscriptions will compete on the same basis. The contest will close one week before the next session of parliament opens, so that there will not be the slightest chance of any subscriber having in advance the least knowledge of the contents of the Speech from the Throne that will open the House.

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What is your estimate of the number of letters and figures of the next speech? Figure it out, or guess at it, and send it in with your subscription and you have a chance of winning one of the magnificent prizes. See The *Weekly Tribune* for full particulars and estimate blanks. The *Weekly Tribune* is supplied from now to the 1st of January, 1905, for ONE DOLLAR. Address all orders to The Tribune Publishing Co., Winnipeg.

do to beat a dog with," and half a dozen more hold up the unfortunate dog as a typical victim on whom injustice may be safely practised. In the whole range of proverbdom there is but one which refers to doggy virtues—"Three faithful friends: an old wife, an old dog, and ready money."

The cat has been much better treated by the proverb maker. Cat proverbs, taken all round, betray an undercurrent of respect. "When the cat's away the mice will play," for example. "He's over auld a cat to draw a strae before" is a good Scots variant of the proverb touching the capture of old birds with chaff, or perhaps is intended to symbolize the fact that a person is beyond the age of a kitten-like love of amuse-

ment. "See which way the cat jumps" bears testimony to the purposeful discretion of the cat. This, by the way, is a mere baby among proverbs. It first occurs in the "Universal Songster" (1825), appropriately in the poem of "The Dog's Meat Man." Two sayings recur to mind in association with the cat's proverbial nine lives: "Care killed the cat" and "Curiosity killed the cat." The first, if taken literally, is ironical: on no living creature do its cares lie more lightly than the cat. She never worries; if we all could take things as calmly as the cat does we should hear much less about nervous diseases and the devastating consequences of modern hurried life. But the proverb is really only another way

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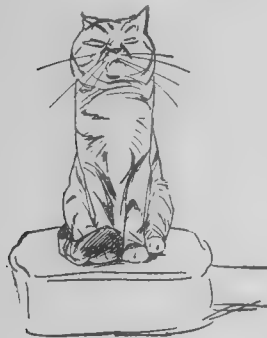
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of saying "a cat has nine lives"—in other words, care will kill anything, even a cat. As for the other statement, if curiosity ever did prove fatal to a cat it must have been long ago, before cats learned caution. Curiosity is deeply implanted in the cat's bosom, as witness the critical interest with which she inspects, with her nose, every stick of furniture in a new home; but there is nothing pushing or aggressive about the proceeding; she makes her inspection with the dignified self-restraint that distinguishes every decently brought up cat. "A cat may look at a king" is by way of crystallizing the privileges of humility. I never saw a king and a cat together, but am certain self-possession would be as



"HE'S OVER AULD A CAT TO DRAW A STRAE BEFORE."

noticeable on the one side as the other. A cat is more at home in good society than she is in less refined circles. The Flemings went a long step further; their proverb in the same sense is, "The cat is the Emperor's cousin." "All cats are grey in the dark" is a particularly sound proverb. In the first place, it conveys a curious fact in optics and natural history; any cat, save a snow-white one, appears grey at night, whether tabby or tortoiseshell, and the rule applies to the whole tribe; the tiger himself looks grey in the moonlight, though you see him at three paces' distance. In the second place, all cats are, morally speaking, the same dubious hue when it is dark; it is impossible to answer for the good behavior of the most high-principled cat after nightfall. There is a cat proverb you may sometimes hear on the lips of consolars of anxious mothers in Scotland, "Wanton kittens make douce cats," as a reminder that heedless, light-hearted children grow steady with the years.

Proverbs involving the horse are many, and a few deal with the risks of horsemanship—or the want of horsemanship. "Pride's an ill horse to ride" is the Scots equivalent for "Pride will have a fall." "A man in a passion

its horses since the dawn of civilization, goes to the horse for many proverbs. "Many a shabby colt makes a fine horse" was conceived in the same reassuring spirit as the Scots saw touching frisky kittens. "The losing horse blames the saddle," borrowed from the racecourse, serves the same purpose as the tools blamed by the bad workman. "As proud as a horse with a wooden leg" is Irish, and also bizarre; it is no improvement on "A dog with two tails," and the right of



either to rank at all as a proverb is at least doubtful: the wit of one may be there, but the wisdom of many, or any, is not apparent. "Don't spur a free horse" and the Scots "A willin' horse is aye worked tae death" may go together. "He is a good horse that never fails" has two or three variants to the same end. "Either win (get) the horse or time (lose) the saddle" is sound advice, dating probably from the days when all journeying was performed on horseback; inasmuch as the traveler who could not find a horse to continue his journey must needs walk and carry the saddle himself. The horse has supplied two or three proverbs to suggest that the best of us make mistakes. "It's a good horse that never falls," or stumbles; "It's a good horse that gallops always." The Scotsman who laid down as an axiom that "A blind horse is nae judge o' colors" gave the horse in possession of his eyesight more credit for discrimination in colors than he deserves.

Sheep, without injustice, furnish proverbs to illustrate stupidity or obstinacy. "If ae sheep loup the dyke a' follow," says the Scottish proverb; the English saying is more pointed: "One sheep follows another." The



"THE LAMB TEACHING ITS DAM TO BLEAT."

rides a horse that runs away with him" has truth, without the brevity we require of a proverb. "One man may steal a horse while another may not look over the hedge" doubtless dates from the bad old days when horse-stealing was a thriving business, but with a hanging one for the culprit. "Locking the door when the steed has been stolen" probably dates from the same period. Ireland, as becomes a country which has been famous for

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Irish have a proverb which offers itself as a picturesque alternative to that concerning grandmothers and eggs: "The lamb teaching its dam to bleat." Over-indulgent parents should keep in mind the very true saying that "A pet lamb makes a cross ram," while the schoolmaster knows that "One rotten (or Scottish 'scabbet') sheep infects the whole flock." To "go out for wool and come home shorn" casts no reflection on the sheep, nor does the highwayman's proverb, "As well be hung for a sheep as a lamb."

The poultry yard furnishes the text for some good proverbs: "A laying hen is better than a standing mill"; "As the old cock crows the young

our farming grandfathers were sometimes tempted to indulge in speculations of that kind on market day. "Pigs maw whistle, but they've a bad mouth for it," expresses the feeling more popularly and perhaps better rendered by the assertion that you "can only get a grunt from a pig." "They that herd swine always think they hear swine grunting" is the farmyard rendering of the saying anent evil communications. "It doesna set (suit) a sow to wear a saddle" is a Scots proverb. On the whole, the pig does not appear to greater advantage than the dog in our proverbs. The saying that you "can't make a silk purse out of a

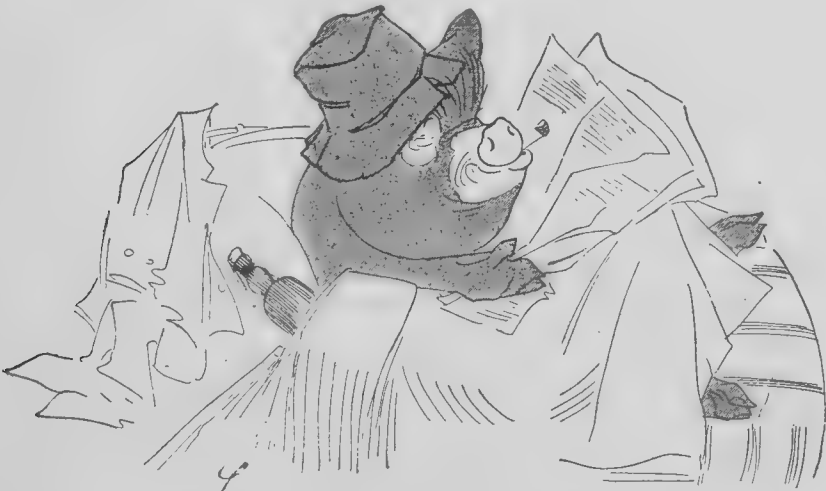


"A BLACK HEN CAN LAY A WHITE EGG."

one learns." That "Children and chickens must always be pecking" was recognized by Mr. Thos. Tusser, who wrote on farming in the year 1580. "That is a silly hen who can't scratch for one chick." "Let every cock fight his own battle." A saying seldom heard since legislation made an end of the sport of cock fighting strikes one as expressive: "He knows how to carry a dead cock home"—i.e., how to look misfortune in the face. This is borrowed from the old "cocking" match; when a bird was killed it must have cost the owner, who had boasted of its prowess, an effort to carry home the defunct and face his neighbors. "A black hen can lay a white egg" borders on the obvious! "Counting your chickens before they are hatched" has its equivalent among the fisherfolk, who warn you against "cleaning your fish before you get them"; which re-

sow's ear" has several equivalents. The original appears to come from the Greek, "You cannot make a horn of a pig's tail." We might imagine the proverb, "Lying in lavender like Paddy's pig," came from the mouth of some envious occupant of an English pig-sty. I do not know that Irish dwellings of the class to which the pigs (calf, goat and poultry) are admitted as of right represent a very high order of luxury; but a place near the fire on a dry, flagged floor in wet or cold weather compares so favorably with the accommodation which English prejudice holds fit for the most sensitive pig that the latter may well think his Irish brother lies "in lavender." This exaggerated hint of comfort, of course, refers to the careful housewife's practice of keeping bags of lavender in the bed-linen.

Cattle do not appear frequently in



"LYING IN LAVENDER LIKE PADDY'S PIG."

calls the detail that Mrs. Glasse's cookery book is not responsible for the advice, "First catch your hare." The words were written for Frederick Yates, father of the late Edmund Yates, by Tom Hood. The line ran, "First catch your hare: then do him till he's done," and opened a speech or soliloquy which Frederick Yates used to deliver in character in his entertainment, "Mr. Yates at Home," which delighted London in the thirties.

We get a few words of wisdom from the pig-sty. "Don't buy a pig in a poke" (sack) seems to suggest that

popular saws. "You can't sell the cow and sup her milk"; "A good cow may have a poor calf" contain hints that are equally well expressed by the proverb about eating one's cake, and by that concerning the unquestioned ability of black hens to lay white eggs.

Undesirable household insects and others supply a proverb or two. Of the stingy man the Irish say he will "skin a flea for its hide and tallow"; the Scotsman says something of the same kind about the louse. "Maybes are no honey bees" is so neat that the indifferent pun is excusable.

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The most convincing and aptest of these proverbs are naturally those which use a prominent characteristic of familiar beast or bird to point the moral, and the sayings which do this with the greatest finality are those which survive; only a tersely-worded phrase which bears irrefutable truth on the face of it wins acceptance as a proverb.

Own a Farm.

A Chicago physician advises city business men to own a farm and take an active part in its management; when they need a vacation to go out and dig in the earth. Many business men at about 60 begin to fail in health from nervous prostration. For these he advises country air and farm life. The

life on a farm no doubt tends to prolong life. Farmers are the longest lived, according to the statistics.



Never play yourself as the wisest guy in the business—there are a few more wise ones about.

To polish wood take a piece of pumice stone and water and pass regularly over the wood until the rising of the grain is cut down; then take powdered tripoli and boiled linseed oil, and polish to a bright surface.



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The Parson Who Forgot His Text.

Mr. Frederick Landis, who has recently been nominated for Congress in the eleventh district of Indiana in a close contest with the veteran Steele, who has been in office for sixteen years, is only thirty years old.

Shortly after Landis had commenced to practice law, some boys who had been arrested for disturbing church services came to him for help. The prosecuting attorney was sure of his evidence and confident of conviction. When the time came for the trial he called the deacons and elders of the church for the prosecution, and, though they all agreed on the disorder of the boys, under cross-examination by Mr. Landis, not one could recall the minister's text or a single point in the sermon. The preacher, himself, to his confusion, could not give his own text. Then the miscreants, who had been carefully coached, were called to the witness stand, and decorously recited the main points of the sermon and the text, to the satisfaction of the court, which decided that their knowledge was proof of close attention and good behaviour. The judge gave a verdict of acquittal.—*Saturday Evening Post.*

Wealth of the North.

Information of the great resources of the north country through which the Grand Trunk Pacific railway is to run, is coming from many quarters. Rev. John McDougall, the veteran Methodist missionary, in a recent interview said:

"The future of the north? The day will come when it will support a vast population. As I make portage, and see the vast water powers everywhere, besides all the mineral wealth, the forest wealth, and the valuable fisheries, what can I conclude, but that God meant man to occupy it? An eastern man said to me. 'Fortunate Northwest, that is to have the Grand Trunk built through it.' I said to him, 'Fortunate Grand Trunk, that is to have the privilege of building through the Northwest!' I have crossed and re-crossed the survey line of the trans-Canada throughout the belt, and I regard that road when it comes, as no less fortunate. I am confident also of the Hudson's Bay route."

The building of the Grand Trunk Pacific will make Canada a nation, broaden her out and widen her influences and greatness and increase her productiveness and natural riches. Instead of being a strip of settlement one or two hundred miles wide along the north boundary of the United States Canada will develop into a nation. The building of the Grand Trunk Pacific will open up a new country and make opportunities for Canada's young



The turn in the road



Green fields and running brooks

men just the same as the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway did 20 years ago. There is no more reason for speaking doubtfully of the district through which the Grand Trunk Pacific is to run, than there was twenty years ago of thrusting doubt upon the west when the C. P. R. was building. The West bears out every optimistic prophecy and the C.P.R. has all the traffic the road can handle. The same thing will no doubt be true of the Grand Trunk Pacific ten years hence. The Grand Trunk will help us get away from the "Little Canada" sentiment and broaden out, as seems to be our natural destiny.—Nee-pawa Press.

Farmer's Business Guide

FREE TO SUBSCRIBERS

TO

The Western Home Monthly

WHAT IT IS

THE FARMER'S BUSINESS GUIDE is being prepared by one of the ablest lawyers of the West, who has had considerable experience in Manitoba and the Territories along farm matters.

The object of THE FARMER'S BUSINESS GUIDE is to present to the farmers of the West appropriate and reliable forms for the transaction of all the ordinary business connected with their occupation.

THE FARMER'S BUSINESS GUIDE will not attempt to make every man his own lawyer, but simply aid men to intelligence in their own affairs, and enable them to enjoy the benefits of the very best information to be had in the transaction of every day affairs.

Some of the forms to appear in THE FARMER'S BUSINESS GUIDE, are:

General Forms of Agreement for Ordinary Purposes.
 Agreement for Employing Farm Labor.
 Agreement for Work or Labor of Any Kind.
 Contract for Sale of Live Stock. Contract for Sale of Grain, etc.
 Cultivation of Land for Sale of Crop. Working the Farm on Shares.
 Agreement for Private Road. Agreement for Line Fence.
 Agreement for Sale of Land. Promissory Note Farms.
 Lien Note Forms. Drafts, Cheques, etc.
 Notice of Intention to Obtain Survey for Line Fences.
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Over 100 forms will be given in chapters in THE FARMER'S BUSINESS GUIDE, under the following heads: Agreements, Assignments, Affidavits, Arbitration, Bills of Sale, Bonds, Bank Checks, Drafts, Guarantees, Indorsements, Leases, Orders, Optional Agreements, Promissory Notes, Powers of Attorney, Receipts, Wills, and Business Letters, etc.

Every father requires THE FARMER'S BUSINESS GUIDE for his own information, and for the education of his sons. The Price of the Book is \$1.

OUR OFFER.

For a limited time THE FARMER'S BUSINESS GUIDE will be **Given Free**, postage paid, with THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY to all paying fifty cents in advance. Send us 50c. and you secure the GUIDE and THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY (in enlarged form) for the balance of 1903 and the whole of 1904.

This offer is the best that has ever been made by any paper in Western Canada.

Address all orders:

THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY,
 Stovel Building, WINNIPEG, MAN.

Garden and Flowers

The Old House.

An old house stands in a weed-grown garden

Where once the rose and the lilac grew,

And the lily lifted a waxen chalice

To catch the wine of the summer dew.

The grass creeps in o'er the moldering

threshold,

And dust lies deep on the rotting

floor

And the wind at will is coming, going,

Through broken window and open

door

"O, poor old house, do you grieve as men

do

For the vanished things that were

yours of yore—

Like a heart in whom love was one time

tenant,

But has gone away to come back no

more.

Do you dream of the dead as the days

pass over—

Of the pang of parting and joy of

birth

In hearts turned dust? Ah, that dust is

scattered

By winds of a lifetime to ends of

earth!

See! Here by the path is one little

blossom.

It lifts to the sunshine a fragile face,

And springs from a root that some dead

hand planted

A century back in the dear home

place.

Little thought they whom the old house

sheltered

That life would fade as the leaves that

fall.

They have had their day and are quite

forgotten—

The little flower has outlived them all!

—

"Here, Patrick; here's a fat little pig

for Christmas roasting." "Thank yez,

sor; it's just like yez, sor!"—Press.



Street Scene in the East.

An Automobile for the Farm.

The National Farmer says: "The automobile will be very useful on the farm when it is reduced to a reasonable price. As a pleasure vehicle it is now having its day and there is no more pleasure in it than there is in riding on a traction engine over a rocky road. What farmers need is an auto that will plow, plant, cultivate and harvest the crops, then take the family to town. All this is possible. In the light of present inventions and the possibilities of gasoline and electricity, the plow pulled by two horses and guided by a man walking behind it is a ridiculous proposition, and one that will not last always.

Scottish and Irish Emblems.

Of a number of legends recording the love of the Scotch people for the thistle the following is one of the most interesting: The Danes are said to have been creeping silently one night toward the Scotch camp, notwithstanding the fact that an attack at midnight upon an enemy was considered as a most dishonorable act, when one of the soldiers set his bare feet upon a thistle. Forgetting himself, he uttered a loud cry, which roused the Scotch sleepers, who immediately fell upon their enemies, routing them completely.

The small three-leaved clover, or shamrock, was, it is alleged, made use of by Saint Patrick Ireland's patron saint, to illustrate the mystery of the Trinity, and thus became the symbol of the Irish people.

Weather Wisdom.

A very curious method of making weather predictions has been discovered by an old French farmer. "On Christmas eve," he says, "when the bells begin to ring for midnight mass, take 12 onions and place them in a row on a table. The first onion will represent January, the second February, and so on. Next make a large slit in each onion and pour some salt into it. If at the end of an hour you find that the salt in the March onion has melted, you will know that there will be much rain in March, and on the other hand, if the salt in the April onion is not melted, you may be certain that April will be a dry month. Moreover, if the salt in any onion is melted at the top, but not at the bottom, the first fortnight of the month will be wet and the second fortnight dry."

Tulips.

Tulips are so very brilliant and beautiful that they are always bound to be in great demand and exceedingly popular during the winter, and the bulbs are so cheap that there is no reason why any one who loves flowers should not have a good collection of tulips for winter blooming in the house, as well as for their garden. A comparatively few cents will buy a great many of the finest varieties. We do not believe that the same amount of money can be expended in a more satisfactory way.

"Well, Johnnie, what are you going to give your little brother for Christmas?" "I dunno. I gave him the measles last year."—Herald.



Quaint and queer customs prevail at the merry Christmas-tide, and there are many that have come and gone whose memories remain fresh in our memories.

In our own happiness and pleasure we often forget those of others; yet it is a wonder to us how the different kinds of people celebrate the festive Yule-tide.

Mr. H. U. Thomas, of Oberone, N.D., gives an entertaining account of how the dark-eyed and dark-skinned brethren of Crow Hill Presbyterian Church on the Fort Totten Indian Reservation observed the occasion. Together with a number of friends he visited the Reservation and they were well repaid for their visit. Mr. Thomas, in speaking of this trip, says:

"A large sleigh, well provided with hay and ropes, was procured with a large, fine team attached. After those

the first glimmer of the light at the little church on the 'hill,' and beheld the numerous sleds or jumpers, with ponies attached or quietly eating hay therefrom, surrounding the church, and knew that we were at our journey's end.

"We were greeted at the door by the 'red man's' Santa Claus, who was dressed in fur from head to foot, and face gorgeously painted and striped with red, yellow and black paint. After shaking hands with 'Santa' we were escorted to the rear of end of the church, back of the altar, and given seats of honor along with the choir and those who were to take part in the exercises. The church was filled to overflowing and standing room was at a discount, as all sat on the floor, the men and older boys on one side and the squaws or women and papooses on the other. There were two Christmas trees. The large one was decorated with red apples and red bandana handkerchiefs and a few packages of cut plug smoking tobacco, and was for the men. The smaller tree was decorated with red apples and white handkerchiefs with either fancy borders or pictures in the corners to please the little girls and squaws. There was also a few packages of tobacco for some of the squaws that smoked. Over our heads and attached to the wall was a line on which the special gifts were hung, consisting of calico dress patterns, fancy shawls and blankets, bead moccasins and various fancy bead articles. In the centre of the room were three barrels of apples, from which the Audience were supplied from time to time by an Indian taking some in a sack and passing them around.

"The leader would give a topic or scriptural sentence to some one Indian and he would get up and talk for five or ten minutes without hesitation, and was listened to very attentively by his audience. After each speaker the organist would play and the choir would sing a familiar Gospel hymn written in the Sioux language. The singers in our party would join in the chorus and swell the anthem until the little church would fairly shake.

After a while it was announced that supper was ready and that 26 could be seated at the tables at once, and we were invited to dine. There being eight in our party we were marched out ahead and across to another little hill, where sat a log house in which the table was set across one side all loaded down with bread, meat, cookies and crackers, pies and cakes, and beside each plate was a cup of coffee. The tables were neatly set and all seemed to enjoy the repast.

"The entire proceedings were very orderly and decorum seemed to be the rule instead of the exception, and as the writer let his mind run back over the seventeen or eighteen years that he had known these people and marked the advancement they had made, he was compelled to exclaim, 'And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together.'"

Subscribe for The Western Home Monthly.

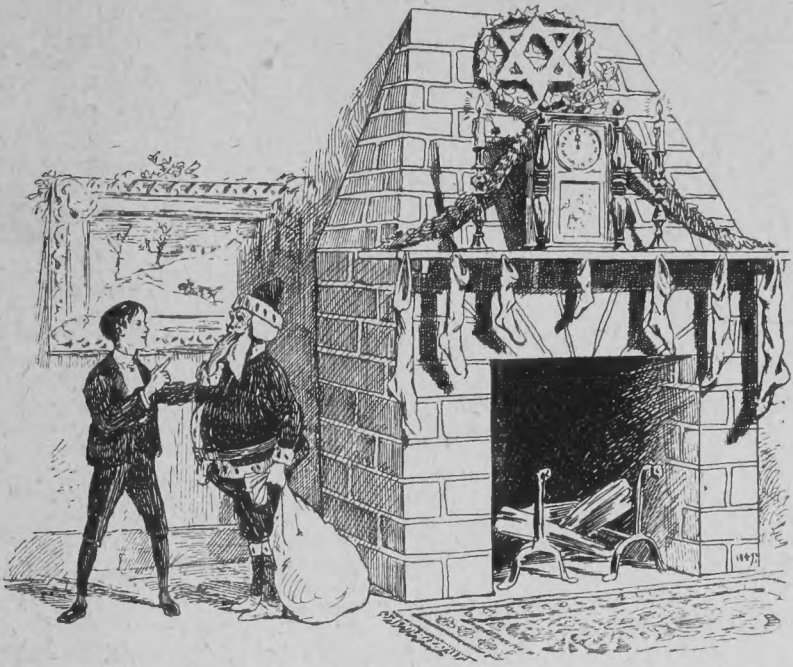


FREE BOYS IRVING WIZARD TOP

To introduce this wonderful piece of mechanism into the home of every child, we will send it absolutely FREE for a few hours' work after school. Send us your name and agree to sell for us only 10 Cigar Buttons, remit us \$1.00, and we will forward same to you at once. Remember, boys, this is no fake. IRVING WIZARD TOP, a toy in name, but a marvel in Science. It interests and educates all ages and classes; its wonderful performance is almost limitless in variety. Briefly this top is TWO TOPS, one within the other, made of STEEL; a veritable ROTARY ENGINE; makes 20,000 revolutions per minute; spins in a pocket or anywhere at any angle it is placed; its average spin is eight minutes; NO SPRINGS, NO WINDING; a child can spin it in three seconds. Send us your name on a postal card and we will forward you at once 10 Cigar Buttons; sell them among your friends and return us \$1.00, when we will forward the top by first mail.

Address WIZARD NOVELTY CO. Dept. Toronto, Ont.

A Christmas Novelty.



Here is a Christmas "attraction" which will prove quite a novelty to our boy readers, and indeed, to some of the older "boys" who are anxious to have a unique entertainment. It is from an old copy of *The Ladies' Home Journal*, but, though somewhat ancient, is none the less interesting to those who go in for novelty at the festive season:

To Mr. Clement C. Moore we are indebted for the creation of that jolly little gnome, the Americanized Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, or Saint Nicholas. When "The Night Before Christmas" was written our homes all possessed ample chimneys and spacious fireplaces, affording a most convenient entrance for the merry little saint; but now he is without doubt sorely puzzled by our modern houses, and experiences great discomfort and difficulty in entering the hot-air chamber of the fireplaces, and squeezing his corpulent body, and his pack of gifts, through the registers.

Our sense of gratitude for many received induces me to offer a few suggestions which will help the boyhood to come, as of old, through the chimney.

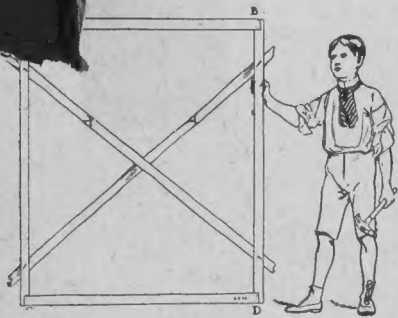


FIG. 1.
Starting the Framework.

Figure 1 shows the first start for the framework, which is made of smooth or rough pine strips one half an inch thick by two inches in width. Make the frame about five feet four inches high by four feet six inches wide; the top and lower piece each four feet five inches (A, B and C, D, Figure 1) long, thus allowing half an inch at each end to fit the ends of the side pieces (R and S, Figure 4). The diagonals, X and Y (Figure 1), are temporary braces to keep the frame in shape, and are nailed at each end in such a manner that the nails may easily be withdrawn when it is necessary. The illustration is so clear that there should be no difficulty in following its lines.

The frame, A, E, F, B (Figure 2), is the back of the chimney, and should be placed against the ceiling of the room in such a position that the fireplace is to be built. Set the frame, A, B, C, D (Figure 1), against the wall, and take Z (Figure 1) and drive a nail at the top of X and Y, into Z, and exactly in the centre of A, B;

drive them far enough to hold Z in an upright position, but leave enough of the nail heads protruding to make it easy to redraw them and remove the temporary braces, X, Y and Z (Figure 2), when the whole frame will be finished and ready for use.

Take a stick half the length of A, B (E, F, Figure 2) and nail the end of

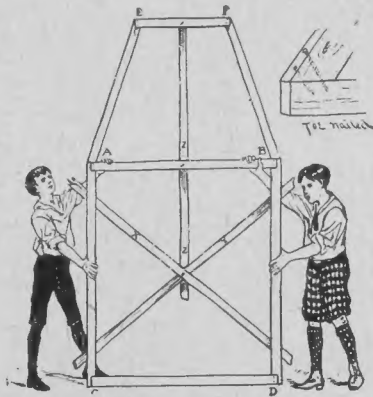


FIG. 2.
The Back of the Chimney.

Z exactly to the centre of E, F. By pushing up one end or the other you may put E, F exactly at right angles or "square" with Z. When the stick, E, F, is found to be square, cut two more sticks, A, E and E, B, each a trifle longer than the distance from A to E; cut the ends of these sticks to fit on the top of A, B, and "toe-nail" them in place as is shown in the small diagram in the upper right-hand corner of Figure 2. Allow the upper ends of A, E and F, B to slip under the ends of the stick, E, F, as in the illustration, and then nail them securely in place, then saw off the protruding ends even with E, F, and the back of your frame is finished.

The front frame (Figure 3) is of the same width as A, B, Figure 1, but it is the width of the strips, R and S, Figure 4 (two inches), shorter than the back. The side pieces, G, N and H, Q (Figure 3), is fitted in with its broad surface facing the front and flush with the tops and front edges of the side pieces, G, N and H, Q; it is held

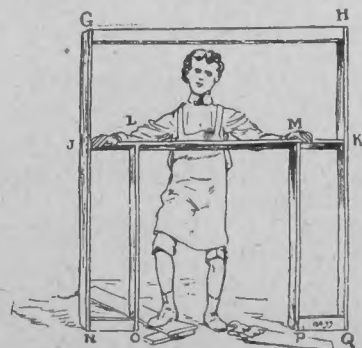


FIG. 3.
The Front Frame.

in place by nails which are driven through the side pieces into the ends of G, H.

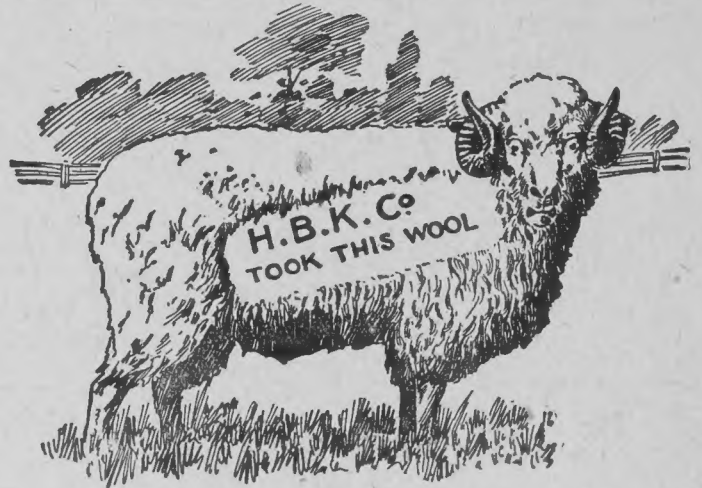
The piece, J, K, is exactly the same length as G, H and forms the top of the fireplace, but unlike G, H the piece J, K has its thin edge flush with the front. It is held in place by nails which are driven through from the outside of the two uprights, G, N and H, Q. All these pieces must be cut and fitted with exactness or the framework will be of no use.

Figure 3 shows how the remaining pieces, L, O, M, P, N, O and P, Q, are placed, and the figure of the young workman gives an idea of their proportions which cannot be given in figures, for the reasoning that the opening for the fireplace must be made to suit the size of the boy who is to be Santa Claus.

To finish the framework is now a

simple task. Make two bottom side bars (C, N and D, Q, Figure 4), each about two and one half feet long, and nail them in place, "toe-nailing" at the front. The two top bars (R and S, Figure 4) must extend out a foot in front for a support for the mantelpiece. After these are securely nailed in place the roof sticks, A and D, may be fitted in place and notched to fit over the mantel supports as shown in Fig. 4. You now have a strong but light frame, which must be neatly covered with grey-colored paper muslin, Manila paper or building paper. The covering must be stretched and securely tacked to the framework, so that no wrinkles shall betray its frail nature.

Any boy clever at carpentry may make a framework similar to the one shown in the illustration above, but when it comes to preparing the costume for jolly old Santa Claus he will



Unshrinkable H. B. K. Underwear

Made from the best sidewool in the fleece—elastic ribbed knit—shaped to fit body—absolutely non-shrinkable—wool treated by H.B.K. exclusive process to make it so—every particle of oil, grease, slivers, etc., removed by the H.B.K. patent cleaning process—tough wear, light, fleecy, all wool, clean, pure, luxurious underwear, and absolutely non-shrinkable, emphasize non-shrinkable. Sold by dealers everywhere.

Only genuine with this brand.



Tough



A pinto bronco is tough from the end of his nose to the tip of his tail. And the toughest part of him is the light, muscular hide that

covers his back and hips.

From that part of his hide the famous "Pinto" Shell

Cordovan leather is made for H.B.K. mitts and gloves. Scorch, boil, wind, rain, cold proof.

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Write for "Strayed," the funniest bronco story ever written.—FREE

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Makers of Warm Wearables for Everybody.

more than likely have to call for some assistance from his sisters, though, of course, he will enjoy the whole thing better if he can make it a real surprise.

Some black paper muslin is now needed to line the inside of the fireplace; tack the ends of two pieces of the black stuff on the uprights, L, O and M, P, and extend one piece back to B, D and the other to A, C, and tack them to the back frame; also stretch a piece of black muslin from A, C to B, D. This will make the interior of the fireplace dark and mysterious. Next take a pot of white paint and a small brush, and rule white horizontal lines all around the fireplace and chimney; then paint upright lines, as shown in the illustration at the head of page 31. This will give the effect of stonework with white plaster between.

Place a smooth board upon the projecting supports, R and S, for the mantel, and the work will be done. If you can secure some old-fashioned brass candlesticks and an antique clock for your mantel they will add greatly to the effect. A pair of andirons with some charred sticks of wood will give a realistic touch which will win applause.

Saint Nicholas—our American Saint Nicholas—is a little fellow; he is fat, and has a red, red nose and a long white beard, as all youngsters know; consequently it is not at all difficult for the boys to make a good representation of him.

When making his costume secure a dark-colored sack coat that is much too large for the proposed Santa Claus, and turn back the sleeves at the cuffs until they are the proper length for Santa Claus' arms. Stitch the cuffs

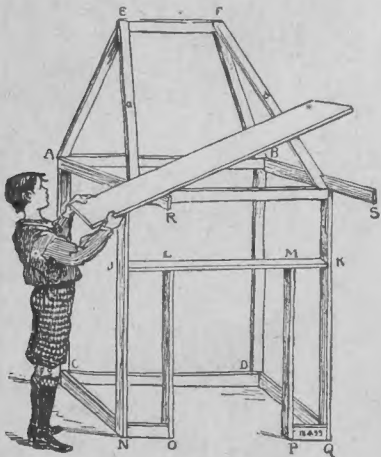


FIG. 4.

Now Have a Strong Light Frame.

lightly to the sleeves to keep them in place. Turn up the bottom of the coat all around, making it the proper length for the little man, and stitch the skirt in place; then to represent fur, use white cotton batting and cover the turned-back cuffs and skirt with this material, so as to conceal the alterations. Upon the white trimmings sew little tags of black cotton. Use a fur cap if you have one; if not, take any sort of a dark cloth one and sew a piece of white cotton around the edge. Cover the legs below the knees with heavy woollen stockings and use big overshoes for the feet.

When the boy who is to represent the jolly old saint is ready to dress, let him put on the knickerbockers first and stuff the bottom end of a pillow in the front of the breeches, then put on the coat, and button and belt; the pillow inside this will give him a jolly big paunch; next pull on the stockings and the overshoes. Then let some one gum a pair of big white cotton eyebrows, using common mucilage for the purpose; also a long white cotton mustache and beard. Press these appendages to the face until the mucilage is dry. The finishing touch is made by painting the nose a bright red, and then the brave old saint will be ready to hide in the spacious chimney, and to descend and greet the company when he receives the signal that the proper time has come for his appearance.

If the false chimney and fireplace are set up against an open door Santa

Claus may enter from the other room, and when he lets himself down over the black cloth back of the fireplace it will appear to the audience—at least, to all the little folks—as if he came down the chimney.

In case no doorway is handy a strong board shelf built in the false chimney will serve as a seat and a place of concealment for the saint until the clock on the mantel strikes the hour of twelve, which should be the signal for the immediate appearance of the little man.

The clock, of course, should be set ahead of time, so that it will strike at the proper moment when everything is in readiness, and the little folks are trembling with impatience.

Puzzle Column

For Boys and Girls.

Publisher's Note.—We will send The Western Home Monthly for one year to the person sending us one original puzzle eligible for publication, or any subscriber who sends the best solution to the puzzles in this number of the Monthly. Answers will appear in the January issue.

Puzzles.

1. Name the word of five letters of which when you take away two only one remains.
2. My first, with my last, is the beginning of my name;
My second, third and fourth is my fifth, sixth and seventh.
My ninth, eighth and tenth is the name of an apple seed.
My whole name is a well known river of America.
3. Why are the cat's hind legs like a waterfall?
4. Spell black water with three letters.

Answers to Puzzles in November Issue.

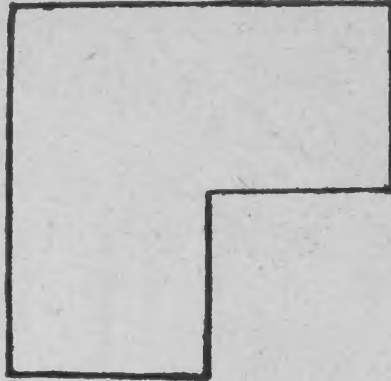
1. Because it is the end of pork.
2. Diamond—
C
E L M
C L E A N
M A B
N
3. What goes in it.
4. The letter E.
5. Meat. Me, a pronoun; and At, a preposition.

Prize Winners.

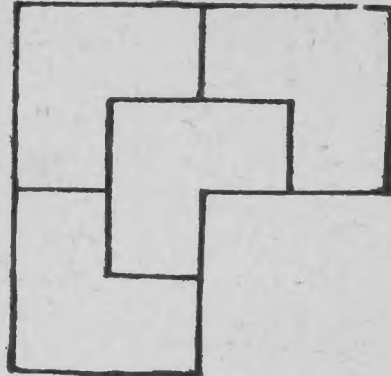
Olive Dryden, Union Point, Man.
Ira M. Burrows, Altamont, Mon.
Elmer Browne, Innisfail, Alta.
Bessie McGhan, Pierson, Man.
Isabel T. Gray, Okotoks, Alta.
Jean H. Beddome, Minnedosa, Man.
Flora Black, Valley, Assa.
Gertrude F. Dickinson, Roland, Man.
George S. Kennedy, Whitewood, Assa.
Martha Ellen Reid, Elgin, Man.
George Allbright, Shellmouth, Man.
F. A. Corbett, Rosser, Man.
A. C. Browne, Innisfail, Alta.
Jas. H. Coates, Broadview, Assa.
James L. Christie, Glenboro, Man.
Charles Jasper, Hartney, Man.
Elsie E. McAree, Minnedosa, Man.
Leila M. Mitchell, Frobisher, Assa.
Wm. Hyde, Russell, Man.
F. Downs, Hill Farm, Assa.
Sadie Copeland, Carroll, Man.
Mabel Osborn, Carroll, Man.
Laura A. M. Wallace, Rosser, Man.
Agnes J. Boyes, Curthill, Assa.
A. Lovatt, Souris, Man.
Frank F. Cottrell, Stonewall, Man.
Hubert H. Storey, Opawaka, Man.
Lena Baldwin, Emerson, Man.
Mary Bedford, Killarney, Man.
Mary G. Campbell, Bridge Creek, Man.
Arthur Darroch, Douglas, Man.
James Edwin Irwin, Kirkella, Man.
Anna Laderoutes, Brown, Man.
Ernest Hugh Dunn, Deloraine, Man.
Herbert Clarke, Deloraine, Man.
Albert Moore, Mandan, Man.
Jessie Jamieson, Clear Springs, Man.

The Division of the Cake.

One day a lady brought to her four children a cake shaped like Fig. 1 below, and told them they could eat



it provided they would find a way to divide it into four equal pieces, each of which should be of the same shape as the large piece. After much puz-



zling the children hit upon a way to divide the cake according to the mother's specifications, and Figure 2 shows how it was done.

Never forget that there is value in a name—of the right kind.

Taking Presents from the Air.

A black cloth curtain is suspended at the back of the room, and about three feet in front of this is hung another black cloth, reaching from the floor to the height of one's waist. The person who is to distribute the gifts should be dressed in white. An assistant dressed in black, wearing black woollen gloves and a hood, with a mask of the same color, stands between the black curtain and the cloth suspended across the space in front. Two lights are so arranged on each side that they shine toward the audience, but are carefully shielded so that none of the rays reach the black curtains. All other lights in the room are put out. The presents to be distributed are laid on the floor between the two curtains, out of sight. The distributor announces in flowery language that he can produce from unseen realms a present for so and so. He turns towards the back and makes a few mysterious passes; his assistant has selected the particular present, which he covers with a black cloth, and, rising from behind the curtain, holds the gift aloft, while he quickly removes the black cloth and passes the package to the gentleman in white. The assistant is invisible from the front, and the effect is as if the one in white had snatched a bundle from the air. He turns immediately and walks towards the audience, delivering the gift, his assistant dropping below the curtain. The lights on the tree should be reflected towards the front.

Never throw up a good position—until you have a better one waiting for you.

Marks that have been made on paint with matches can be removed by rubbing first with a slice of lemon, then with whiting, and washing with soap and water.

Get a Big Lovely Dressed Doll FREE



Girls! do you want a big sleeping beauty, nearly

1-2 YARD

This lovely imported Doll is now handsomely dressed in the latest French doll fashion. She is a beauty, prettier than any baby you ever saw; she has Bisque head, rosy cheeks, sleeping eyes, lovely long curly hair (dark or blonde), pearly teeth, fancy lace trimmed dress, fancy dress underwear, with hat, shoes, stockings, etc., complete and stylishly dressed from head to shoes, an elegant and lovely doll, sweet and pretty as a rose in June, she shuts her eyes and goes to sleep as natural as baby herself.

Girls! now is your opportunity to obtain one of our lovely dolls before any other girl gets ahead of you, drop everything else and write to us, we are giving away hundreds of lovely dressed, jointed and sleeping dolls for selling only 15 packages of our Famous Marvel Washing Blue, the best bluing made, at 10 cents a package. Don't send any money. Order to-day, we will send Bluing by mail postpaid, you sell it at 10 cents a package, and with each package a certificate is given entitling customer to a valuable silverware present from us. Marvel Washing Blue, the great wash day help, sells in almost every house, you can sell the 15 packages in a few hours; when sold return us the money, \$1.50, and we will carefully pack and promptly forward to your address one of our handsome dolls. **NOTE—We arrange to prepay all charges on your doll right to your address, so that you receive your lovely doll without cost, and besides the lovely large doll we also send you a beautiful little Bisque Baby Doll with lovely long hair and jointed body, you can put the baby doll to sleep with the large Mother Doll and have lots of fun, remember we send the two dolls for selling only the 15 packages, and we also send another lovely extra present if you are quick in replying.**

DOLLY WIDE-AWAKE LOOKING FOR ITS MAMMA.

delay, order the Marvel Washing Blue at once and be the first in your locality to receive presents. Address: **MARVEL BLUING CO., DOLL DEPT., 417, Toronto.**